

# WORLD TIMES

## SPECIAL CSS EXAM

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## CSS Reforms and the Special Exam

**I**mproving the government's performance for the progress and prosperity of the country and its people has been the vision of Prime Minister Imran Khan. And, one word that aptly depicts all his initiatives since he assumed the reins of the country is 'reforms'. From economy to foreign policy, from security policy to governance, he has been out to meliorate. Since civil service is the policy-implementation arm of the government, he has given greater attention to reforming the bureaucracy; right from recruitment to performance evaluation of serious bureaucrats. This was in this context that he constituted a special task force led by his adviser on Institutional Reforms, Dr Ishrat Husain. The task force has prepared a comprehensive package that will soon be presented for approval of the cabinet and implementation thereupon.

Recently, he lifted the curtain from his much-awaited package during an interview with a prestigious national daily. The package contains a plethora of changes for CSS exam right from selection of optional subjects to proposal to conduct a screening test to sift the non-deserving and non-serious candidates at an earlier stage. Let's have a look at what the package contains.

First of all, Dr Ishrat has proposed a screening test based on Multiple Choice Questions that will eliminate the bulk of CSS aspirants at this stage. Those passing this test will be subjected to further screening in psychometrics tests modelled on the British Civil Service so as to shortlist around 2000 candidates for the written examination. This seems a right step and we have been consistently advocating, from our pages for, such a test as it is extremely difficult to assess all 12 papers of aspirants which number between 15,000 and 20,000 every year — It is important to mention that in CE-2020 of 39,000 students who had applied for it, around 20,000 candidates actually took twelve papers each. Over the past few years, we have seen exponential growth in the number of aspirants and the number is still growing owing to increased awareness on CSS exam and the illustrious career as well as the prestige it offers. But, on the other hand, there has been no capacity building of the Federal Public Service Commission to enable it to execute this task perfectly.

After the screening process and psychometric process, the candidates will appear in written exam. In this exam, the selection of optional subjects will be limited and aspirants will be expected to have some basic knowledge of the service they aspire to join. For example, if an aspirant wants to join the Foreign Service of Pakistan, (s)he will have to choose International Relations and International Law as his/her optional subjects. Similarly, those who wish to join the Police Service of Pakistan would be required to take Criminology and Civil & Criminal Procedure Codes as optional subjects. For another instance, students who want to join Pakistan Administrative Service (PAS) will have to opt for Political Science or Governance and Public Policy.

There is no denying the fact that most of our bureaucrats lack specialist knowledge which is a major handicap in the nation's progress as specialists such as engineers, doctors, scientists and others do not get timely promotions or other incentives to effectively plan or execute projects in their domains. Dr Ishrat opines: "We have to move towards a blended approach in which the relative strengths of the generalists and specialists are optimally utilized. Therefore, at the time of induction, we shall create incentives for candidates to match their preferences with some prior domain knowledge... we will create a cadre of specialists who will be exposed to training, up-gradation of their skills over time and defined career paths with results based monetary rewards so that we can do a better job in project screening, project appraisal, and project evaluation."

Indeed, efforts must be undertaken to promote and empower the specialists. Reserving top jobs for generalists may be anachronistic. But the idea that some departments are prone to corrupt practices because of a lack of bright service prospects, and better job conditions would lead to less corruption does not sound convincing.

Another prominent feature of the package is 'performance management' by linking promotions and pay-raise to the performance of the officer so that there is an incentive for the officer to work hard because he or she wants to get promoted to the next grade.

These concrete proposals need to be implemented with full zeal and vigour. Making the examination system robust and recruiting only the genuinely talented candidates and then tracking their performance through various tools seem a good way to exhort them to serve their country with best of their abilities and skills.

Another subject of this editorial is the announcement of a Special CSS Exam by Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Establishment Shehzad Arbab. He took to Twitter and on a national TV to announce that PMIK has approved a special CSS exam to fill 188 vacant posts in federal services. This special exam to fill 188 vacancies carried over in the last few years is expected to take place by yearend. It is important to note that 188 seats include 41 of Sindh Rural, 19 of Sindh Urban, 49 of Balochistan, 2 of Islamabad Capital Territory, 22 of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and 39 of Punjab (Minorities quota).

This is a good step; however, the FPSC and the government must clear the air regarding this special exam as most aspirants are in the midst of their preparations for CSS 2021 exam. The groups in which seats are to be filled must also be announced at the earliest.

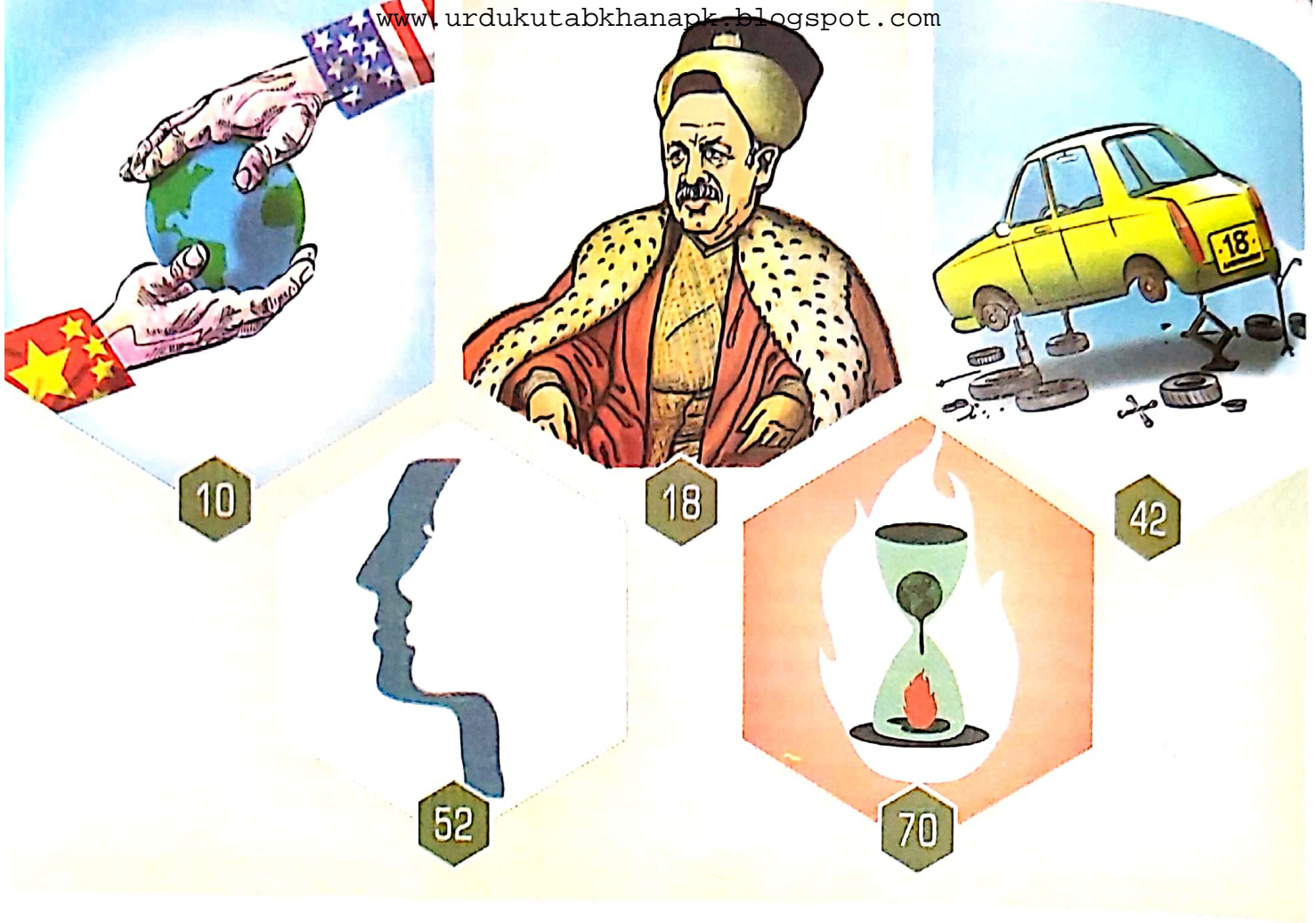


Adeel Niaz

adeelniaz78@gmail.com

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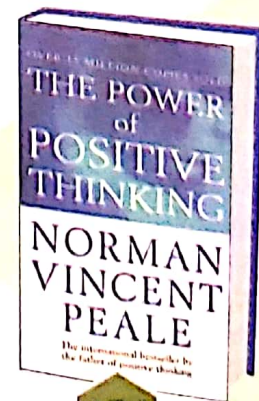


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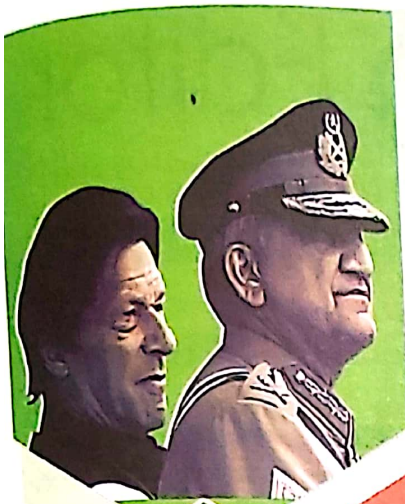
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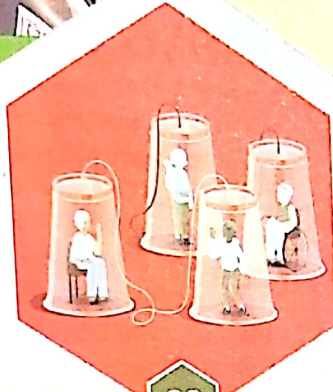
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## Thar's Water Woes

Tharparkar is undergoing an unprecedented water crisis, the effects of which might become more severe than the Covid-19 pandemic. Every single person is seen busy in getting maximum water for their families from the start of the day. During the exercise people take their livestock's with them to the water source. Experts suggest that there is abundant subsoil water to meet the requirement of 2.5 million population for as many as 250 years and water needs of the desert can be met through supply of canal water, storage of rain water or utilising sub-soil water through the reverse osmosis (RO) plants. But, all the RO plants which were installed a few years ago are not operational anymore. The long-term solution for Tharparkar's water woes is storing rainwater in storage dams as round 80% of the rainwater which poured on the hills of Nangarparkar becomes lost as it flows towards Rann of Kutch in India. Another good solution can be the construction of a canal that would supply water to this region. The federal and the Sindh governments are requested to look into this matter on humanitarian grounds and order the construction of the water-supply mechanism as early as possible.

Faraz Ahmed Sangi  
Benazirabad

## Youm-e-Takbeer

Like every year, on May 28, 2020, Pakistan marks the 22nd anniversary of its nuclear tests with great zeal and fervour, underscoring that the country's desire to get nuclear capability was only meant to bring peace and make a balance of power in the region amid India's continued hostility. On this historic day, Pakistan conducted nuclear test on the hills of Chagai, in Balochistan in response to continued aggressive posturing by its neighbour, India. Pakistan's decision to test its nuclear weapons was followed by six nuclear tests by India in the second week of the same month of the same year. The day marks country's achievement to make its way to the global nuclear club and it is also commemorated as the National Science Day to highlight Pakistan's achievements in the field of science. The then-PM Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and the military leadership did not succumb to pressure of international community especially the US-led western world who wanted Pakistan not to test its nuclear weapons. India's nuclear tests caused a public outcry in Pakistan which made the leadership to realise that now it had become indispensable to test nuclear weapons. As a result, Pakistan successfully tested its nuclear devices while rejecting offers of aid amounting to millions of dollars. The decision made the country's defence impregnable. The Youm-e-Takbeer signifies that Pakistan did not want nuclear proliferation and it has achieved nuclear capability in response to the direct aggression and threats from India. Even today, Pakistan advocates for a South Asia that is free of nuclear weapons while showing its steadfast commitment to non-proliferation and global peace.

Mujahid Saleem  
Rawalpindi

## Letters to the Editor

For feedback and suggestions,  
please write to us at:

editorjwtnmag@gmail.com

## Special CSS Examination

The government has recently announced its intention to conduct a special CSS examination to fill the leftover posts. But, the decision has raised more questions than answers. Some important questions being raised by prospective aspirants are: whether the top posting groups like PAS, PSP and FSP are also included in these examinations? If a candidate appears in the special examinations, will his/her attempt be counted by the FPSC? Will there still be reserved seats for uniformed personnel? The candidates want to know whether it would not have been better to add these seats to the CSS 2021 examinations to lessen the ratio of unallocated candidates, rather than taking separate examinations. The authorities concerned should address these queries so that aspirants' confusion is removed. Since most aspirants are preparing for the CSS 2021 attempt, it is necessary to give them a clarity of mind so that they may concentrate on their studies.

Nazra Irshad  
Lahore

## Need to Revive the NCHR

In accordance with international obligations and as a state party to treaties concerning human rights, Pakistan had established the National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR). But, unfortunately, it has been non-functional for almost a year since the four-year terms of its chairman and other members expired on 30th May last year. It is regrettable that constitutional bodies like the NCHR, which are set up to protect the interests of the common people, fall victim to political schemes. The Pakistani state's security-centric disposition has meant that human rights have never been prioritised by successive governments. As an independent body, the NCHR's mandate is quite expansive. It entails conducting investigations of human rights, reviewing and advising on legislation, reporting on and monitoring government's performance, creating a national action plan for the fulfilment of human rights and making recommendations to ensure compliance with the Constitution as well as international treaties. This is crucial work, especially for a country like Pakistan; work that has been left unattended for a year now. It is hoped that the courts and the government will play their part in making the independent body functional again.

Abdullah Hassan Butt  
Zafarwal





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## INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS



Shamshad Ahmad  
Former Foreign Secretary

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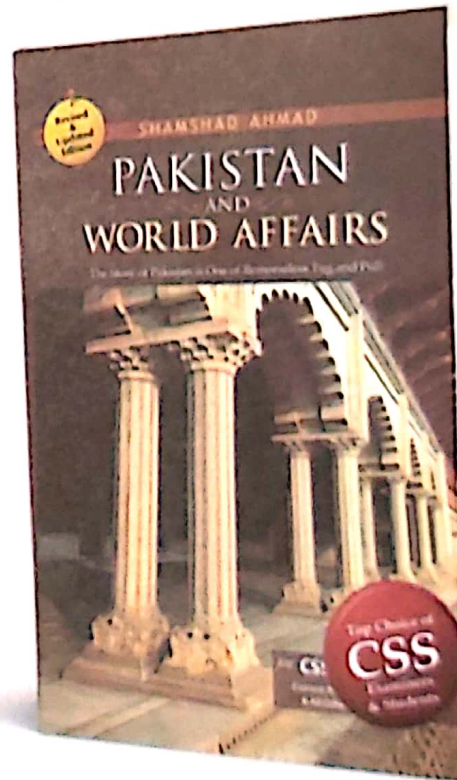
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# Covid-19 Response

## Will it accelerate the shift in power from the West to the East?

Our century is witnessing a tectonic shift in global power and influence from the West to the East. In his book, "The New Asian Hemisphere: The Irresistible Shift of Global Power to the East," Kishore Mahbubani, a former Dean and Professor in Practice of Public Policy at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, Singapore, explains why Asia is rising, how it will alter the world, and why the West—even though it should celebrate Asia's rise—will have great difficulties adjusting to these changes. He argues further that the rise of Asia will be good for the world as hundreds of millions of people will be rescued from the clutches of poverty. We have already seen a clear manifestation of his contention. China alone has been able to lift 800 million people out of poverty in the last three decades and is currently the second biggest economy of the world. The rise of China and India along with the continuing weight of Japan surely marks one of the greatest shifts in power from the West to the East.

Athar Mansoor



The recent pandemic of Covid-19 and how the West and the East have responded to it provides an interesting case to delve deep into this thesis of shifting power put forward by public intellectuals like Kishore Mahbubani, Prag Khanna and Stephen Walt. As of mid May, the top industrialized economies of the West such as the United States, the United Kingdom, Italy, France and Germany, have not been able to control the spread, and death rates of the new-to-the-world disease. More than 2 million people have been infected in these five countries and approximately 175000 have died with more than a hundred thousand passing away in the United States alone. In contrast, the combined

number of people infected, by mid May, in China, Japan, South Korea, India, Hong Kong, Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia was around 230000 while the total number of deaths in these nine big economies of the East was well below the 10000 mark. This comparison between the West and the East is startling as the outbreak of the highly disruptive and lethal Covid-19 occurred in the Chinese city of Wuhan. Asia in general, and East and Southeast Asia in particular, had much lesser response time at their disposal as compared to that the well-developed and advanced economies of the world had with their well-known sophisticated emergency response and medical systems. Still, these Asian countries have



## INTERNATIONAL

done remarkably well in controlling the spread of the infection and preventing the loss of precious lives. China has gained almost complete control over the virus and is also sending medical aid to many countries including the Western economic powerhouses. After steadying itself, China is sending assistance to others in the shape of doctors, masks and ventilators. This is a clear display of its soft power that may speed up a tipping of the geopolitical scales in its favour. Not only China, other countries, e.g. Singapore, Malaysia, South Korea and Australia, have also been praised for managing the pandemic relatively well. Meanwhile as of late February, the American public officials such as Larry Kudlow, the National Economic Council Director, were claiming that the United States had contained Covid-19. Since then we have seen an unmanageable spike in the number of confirmed cases and deaths in America. Maybe, the Americans declared the victory too soon. These different developments across the two hemispheres



Center of Science and International Affairs of the Harvard Kennedy School also argue the same. They are of the view that Covid-19 will accelerate the shift in power from the West to the East and the main reason is the relatively slow and haphazard response to Covid-19 in Europe and America.

Summing up, I would say that Covid-19 is comparable to the fall of the Berlin Wall in



Europe or the collapse of Lehman Brothers in the United States. It will shatter the world and will have wide-scale and far-ranging consequences we can only begin to imagine today.



clearly have the tendency to reshape the global order. In its recent issue, Foreign Affairs magazine interestingly noted that the global orders have a tendency to change gradually at first and then all at once. It further explains how in 1956, a botched intervention in the Suez laid bare the decay in British power, and marked the end of the United Kingdom's reign as a global power. This leads me to argue that the American policymakers should recognize that if the United States does not rise to meet this extraordinary challenge, the coronavirus pandemic could turn the tables where China may supplant it as the new world leader. Renowned professors at the Belfer

However, one thing is certain. The disease has disrupted our lives to the scale of the Second World War. It has disturbed markets and exposed the competence or incompetence of governments. It will lead to permanent shifts in political and economic power in ways that will become apparent sooner than predicted by the intellectuals who argued that the East is rising. ■

*Athar Mansoor is a civil servant presently pursuing a doctorate in technology and innovation policy.*

*He can be reached at: atharmansoor74@gmail.com*



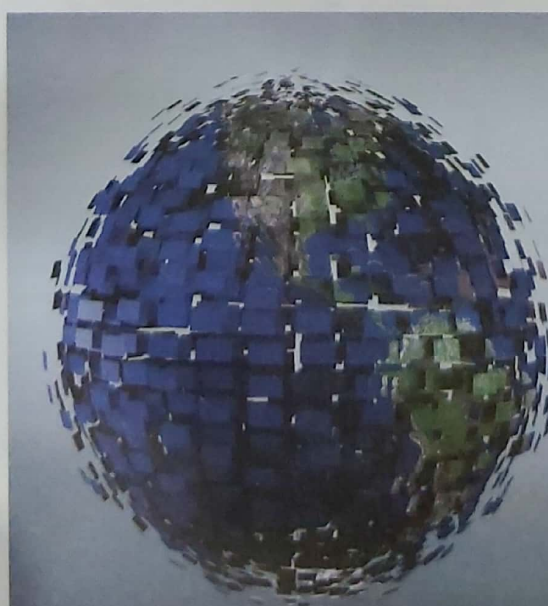
While the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the global economy is more dramatic than any other shock in recent history, the consequences of the virus for the geopolitical order could be even more consequential. A radical shift in the global political economy may be imminent in the post-Covid-19 world. The emerging global order will be characterised by intensified geopolitical competition among the great powers, particularly between the United States and China. On the other hand, many observers also opine that there could be more cooperation between nations and an increase in globalization, or nations could isolate themselves from the world and look inward which means there would be more regional cooperation in the years to come.

**M**any articles have been written about the new world order in which experts have been looking into the issue of what happens next after the threat of Covid-19 has abated. These experts take up a range of viewpoints: The humanitarians place their blame on the actions of humans, the realists elaborate on the issue from power-oriented views, and the liberals examine it within the framework of a collaborative response. However, it is too early to judge the scope and long-term impact of the pandemic on the geopolitical landscape. But, what is undoubtedly clear is that the post-Covid-19 world will not be the same as before. Many things will change. Even though some prominent international relations scholars argue that we are now on the cusp of a new world order in which the forces of uninterrupted globalization process will give way to the forces of protective nationalism and nation-states will strengthen their status as the most legitimate political community. Some others think that globalization is a never-ending process and the rise of such transboundary challenges as epidemics and environmental disasters will require more globally-coordinated responses. While the former group of scholars is more predisposed

to the view that the emerging world order will evince more intense geopolitical competitions among great powers—most notably between the United States and China—the latter is more inclined to believe that the degree of interdependencies, as well as the density of transnational interactions across the globe, is so high that turning back to the pre-globalization era is almost impossible. Both



predictions seem correct, and we do not need to choose one at the expense of the other. First, it is certain that globalization will face strong criticism. The coronavirus has demonstrated that unwanted incidents occurring in distant places can have a direct impact on our lives. The risks of global supply chains and instant financial transactions are so acute. The free movement of people across



# Geopolitical Consequences of Covid-19

The world will never be the same





the globe seems to be the most important reason why the virus has fast spread to countries beyond China. Stagnation in the Chinese economy has produced negative economic outcomes in other countries, including particularly those which are unproportionally dependent on China-centric global supply chains.

It is no wonder that pulling up the drawbridges to prevent traffic in humans and goods has been the first protective measure adopted by many countries.

Second, the war on Covid-19 has also shown that nation-states are still the most legitimate entities to provide the most effective remedies to the virus plague. Boosting different economic sectors by injecting great sums of money, adopting strict lockdowns, locking people in their homes, asking them to respect the social distancing, treating them in well-equipped hospitals and tracing the physical movements of those who are infected with the virus could not have been handled by any authority but states.

Third, the years ahead will likely see the geopolitical rivalry between the United States and China intensify.

This power competition will likely transpire within a post-liberal international order in which neither the United States will continue to act as the chief provider of global public good nor China will acquiesce in the role of norm-taker. We already know that the United States under President Donald Trump has already begun questioning the liberal international order from within. No matter if Trump is reelected in November, the isolationist and nationalist tendencies within American society will continue. We also know that China under President Xi Jinping has already adopted a more assertive and claimant role in international politics, and China has changed its course from the "bide your time and hide your capabilities" dictum of earlier times.

The war on Covid-19 has demonstrated that while the United States puts the main responsibility for the outbreak and mismanagement of the virus on China's shoulders, China has proven to be quite eager to play the role of the new provider of global public good, of which economic reconstruction and medical health stand out.

Globalization might slow down across the world, yet it

## A Peep into the Future World Order

The current international order consists of four poles with the United States being the "supreme power," followed by China whose power is increasing, and Russia who still has influence and is keen on resurrecting its lost power. And finally, there is the European Union with its remarkable influence.

Once the spread of Covid-19 is controlled, we will have to decide the future of the world. There is the possibility that nations will isolate themselves and focus on their own internal production with little to no outside collaboration; in this event, we may find the new world in a more precarious situation than if the virus was still spreading. This is due to the fact that, for now at least, the virus has pushed for a sense of solidarity between nations. If there should be a focus on selfish-state behaviour later on, this would create a new world that is divided. As a result, countries would see each other as enemies and geopolitical competition would accelerate.

Let us examine two possible scenarios of what could happen after the Covid-19 crisis passes.

One scenario is that nations go into recession and collapse. In the meantime, the US does everything to protect its dominance over the others while China is still moving toward being a superpower. Russia too would move into a post-pandemic world while the EU is still present with fewer members and a broken reputation.

The second scenario assumes that the US collapses and China takes over as the only supreme power. The competition between China and Russia will accelerate but China will not become a transparent or open society like the US. Being a supreme power brings many advantages. A potential Chinese global hegemony could see similar incidents such as what we have seen in the occupation of Iraq, Afghanistan, Vietnam and so on. It was only recently reported that a Chinese survey vessel, the Hai Yang Di Zhi 8, was operating within Malaysia and Brunei's exclusive economic zone without permission. It can be said that it is not about being an American or Chinese power, but it is the advantages provided by being positioned at the helm of the world.

The reality of the situation we face now is that the West has created a giant and a rival in China. By their own hands, the West allowed its largest companies to relocate and begin manufacturing in China. This, in turn, paved the way for the Chinese to learn or steal technology developed by the West.



increase their efforts to sell their national narratives around the globe and try to recruit as many followers as possible to their cause.

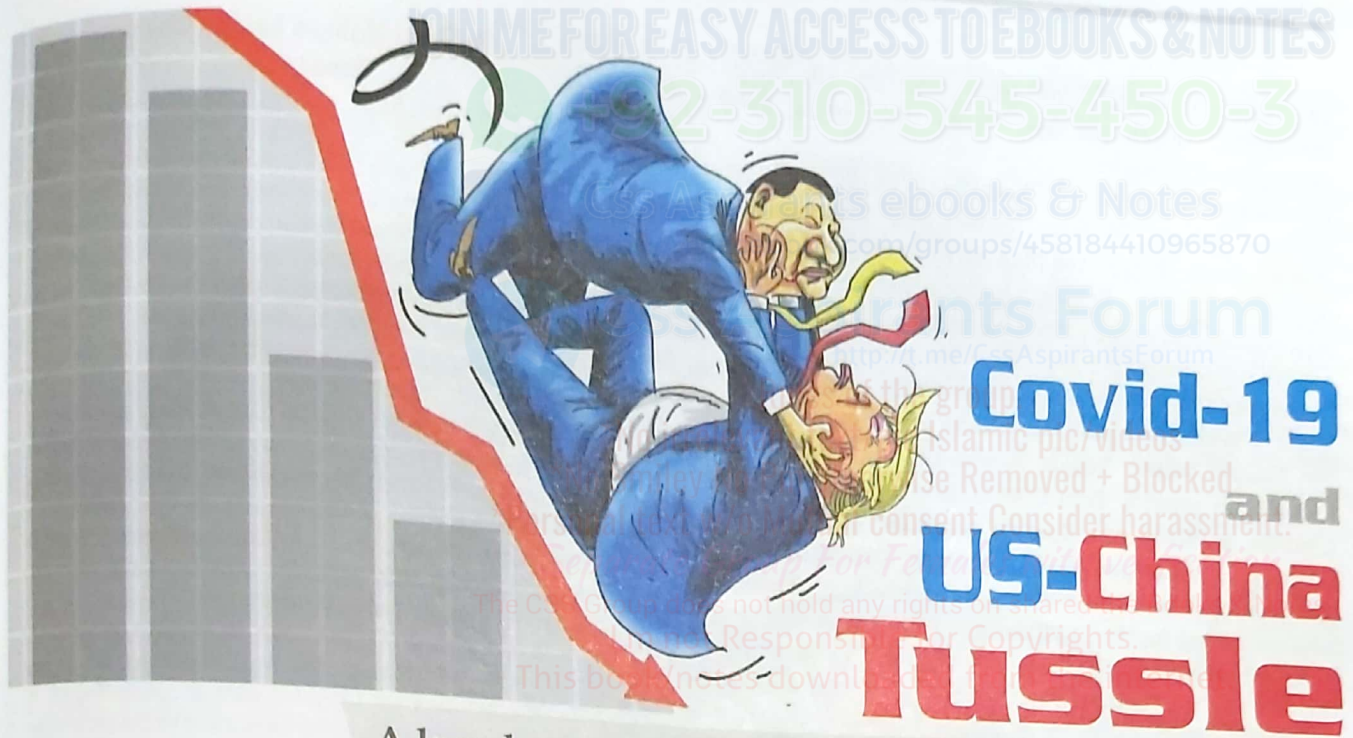
And this geopolitical rivalry between the two behemoths offers the main reason why the globalization process will continue. To score goals against each other, the most important weapon in their arsenal would be the number of allies and partners each has in their inventories. Given the recent attitudes of both countries to the globalization process in recent years, China seems to be in a more advantageous position than the United States. Even though the United States is far ahead of China in terms of the number of treaty allies, strategic partners and economic partners, the resentment against the United States has recently reached high levels among traditional American allies in Europe and East Asia. Given that winning the emerging geopolitical competition requires as much soft power as hard power, China's pro-globalization stance and intensifying economic and medical diplomatic efforts might tilt the balance in China's favour. It is likely that China's Belt and Road Initiative will be under more spotlight in the years to come. Unless the United States designs a new version of the Marshall Plan, we will increasingly live under a China-centric globalization era. Time will tell. ■



will accelerate at regional levels. Decoupling between the American and Chinese economies might increase, yet both powers, particularly China, will increase their efforts to lead globalization in their regions. The process of regional globalization will speed up as leading countries in different regional locations see the creation of regional supply chains under their leadership more vital to their national interests than ever. While the coronavirus epidemic has shown that holding a lower status in global supply chains is quite dangerous for national economies, having interdependent economic relations with the countries of the same region might be a life-saver. Despite all the fuss about the EU's inability to help its members deal with the crisis effectively, after all, it behooves to the EU's frugal northern members to rescue their spendthrift southern neighbours. Similarly, China's centrality to the economic recovery of East and Southeast Asia in the post-Covid-19 era is quite evident. Despite the growing uneasiness of many countries in the region with China's growing self-confidence in setting the rules of new geopolitical order, they do not have the luxury of antagonizing China or hoping to recover their economies by intensifying their economic interdependency with the US or the EU. In a time of growing opposition to economic globalization among many Americans and Europeans, China is the indispensable nation for wealth and prosperity in East and Southeast Asia.

After the pandemic gets under control, Chinese and American models of global governance will be in a fierce competition and this competition will be more about good governance practices in such different realms as health, sustainable development, environment protection, climate change, poverty reduction, etc, than military power capacity and territorial control. Put differently, both powers will





## A lose-lose proposition that will do damage worldwide

**F**uture historians might record that the Covid-19 pandemic marked the start of a new cold war between China and the United States. Even before coronavirus emerged, tensions between Washington and Beijing were rising. China had challenged American power in the Pacific, by building a chain of military bases across the South China Sea. In the United States, the Trump administration had initiated a trade war. The two countries' relations were already going through a rough patch for a variety of reasons. In the meantime, territorial disputes between China and US allies in the region have reached an alarming level of tension in the last few years. Disputes between several countries over the maritime borders of the South China Sea and sovereignty over the Spratly Islands between Japan and China in regard to the Senkaku Island have been the most prominent of these geopolitical challenges. The "trade dispute" between two countries has already been widely acknowledged as having developed into a "trade war." Despite the signing of a deal in mid-January this year, there is still a lot of bad blood in regard to the future of relations.

However, with the coming of the coronavirus crisis, we have seen a totally new issue having been raised that affects the future of Sino-US affairs. Now as the pandemic wreaks havoc on the world economy, with more than one-quarter of the world's fatalities in America, Donald Trump is increasingly turning on China. The US president has endorsed the idea that the coronavirus originated in the Institute of Virology in Wuhan. He has also speculated that it might have been deliberately manufactured—an idea his own intelligence agencies have explicitly repudiated. The White House is also reported to be interested

Shafqat Javed

**Covid-19 is becoming a key element in US-China relations. The pandemic has aggravated**

**the already sinking US-China relationship attributed to the two countries' trade, technology and geopolitical wars. The United States is increasingly blaming China for the spread of the coronavirus, the damage it has done to the economy and the colossal number of deaths. President Trump, in some of his almost daily briefings on Covid-19, vowed to investigate the Wuhan Institute of Virology, from**

**which US intelligence "sources" speculated the virus was released intentionally or accidentally. China, for its part, accuses the US (and the West in general) of squandering a two-month opportunity to act on its January 3 release of information that Covid-19 would spread rapidly. The blame game appeared to be heating up, with both sides demanding investigations on whether the charges or conspiracy theories were true. However, it must be considered that blaming each other for causing Covid-19 will only worsen the economic, geopolitical and social damages that the pandemic has already caused.**



in trying to nullify the legal doctrine of "sovereign immunity," which protects China from being sued for damages in US courts. China has also contributed mightily to the rise in tensions. A Chinese foreign ministry spokesman, Zhao Lijian, has floated the evidence-free idea that coronavirus might have originated in the US. Beijing has also responded with calls for an international inquiry into what is now a global disaster. There is an undeniable element of xenophobia in some of the China-bashing that is going on in the West, which has led to a spate of verbal and physical attacks on Asian-Americans in the United States. Senior American politicians, such as Republican senator Tom Cotton, are campaigning to stop Chinese students enrolling in technical courses such as artificial intelligence and quantum computing in US universities. There are even some hotheads in Washington who are calling for the US to renege on debt owed to China. In China meanwhile, the nationalist twist that was given to the school curriculum 30 years ago, after the Tiananmen



Square massacre, has raised an often-angry generation, quick to take offence at alleged slights by foreigners and eager to demonstrate Chinese power. Those sentiments are nurtured by a government that wants to deflect discontent away from the Communist party itself.

As of now, there are still too many unknowns about what could be the potential trajectory of the coronavirus; however, we can be sure that things will be at least slightly altered between China and the US in the coming period.

First of all, it is important to remember that the coronavirus crisis is not over and looks likely to continue to haunt us for the foreseeable future—at least until a potential vaccine is developed. If the crisis continues throughout the summer and makes a dangerous comeback in the fall, there will be plenty of time to ask, "What went wrong?" So far, the US administration has responded to this question with two different narratives. President Donald Trump, who praised China's handling of this crisis in tweets in January, seems to have had a change of heart. Although never having sought to

## Political Motives behind China Smearing

China's achievement in the fight against Covid-19 is way better than that of the US. But China is confronting waves of accusations, which have been launched by Washington, and supported and followed by other Western countries and forces. It is the urgent political need of the Republican-led government to pass the buck to China for its own failure to contain the outbreak so as to win the upcoming election. This is a life-and-death matter so it would spare no effort to smear China and mobilize all possible public opinion forces to do so to cover its selfishness. Moreover, the US regards China as its strategic competitor. This is a bipartisan consensus in the US. China's ability to handle the crisis and its industrial production capacity have further increased the sense of crisis among American elites. The idea of stopping China from becoming stronger during its fight against the epidemic, creating more trouble for China, and promoting more hate against China from across the world can easily resonate among elites in the US and the Western world.

If China had been in the same boat as Western countries in suffering from the pandemic, the West might have felt better. However, unlike the West, China has done an outstanding job in fighting the coronavirus. As China takes a turn for the better after its temporary economic shutdown, the West continues to struggle. In this context, stigmatizing China has become popular in the West as they need some psychological comfort.

Some people are fond of kicking up a fuss. China has done well, but the US is leading a blame game against China, offering a fantasy where China would provide compensation to lure more countries into the game as if they could benefit from it.

The Chinese people have noticed that the West won't stop rocking the boat. China has to withstand the US-driven public opinion not in its favour. This is the price China has to pay for growing stronger. We placed too much importance on attitude from the US and the Western world in the past. But now we have to get used to their attacks, and be able to pinpoint the logic of their accusations against our achievements and exaggerations of our problems. We don't have to be nervous or quickly respond to all their comments, but instead be vigilant and realize that their attacks prove we are doing the right thing.

We see familiar faces in the "bashing China" chorus—the US and its core allies in the Five Eyes alliance, Western media that wins hits by attacking China, and some "temporary political actors" coming to hype things up.

It is our century-old dream to see China become a power that makes the US feel uncomfortable. It's of no use for the Chinese people to miss the good old days in the 1980s when the Western world wooed China against the Soviet Union.

It is time for China to withstand challenges. Washington from now on would say nothing positive about China, but constantly condemn us. It has a few followers like Australia. But these countries can barely influence us. China only needs to manage its own business well and fix its own shortcomings. This has nothing to do with US recriminations, but continuing to progress is our goal. The West is more capable in terms of shaping public opinion and the situation can't be changed immediately. But China's continuous development will eventually work to reshape the pattern of world public opinion. Time is on our side.

Courtesy: Global Times



## INTERNATIONAL

cut ties with China, President Trump and those within his inner circle have always been sceptical about China's role in dealing with this crisis. In March, President Trump started to refer to the virus as "the China Virus," defending his decision as simply a result of where the illness originated.

However, following a phone call with Xi Jinping, he changed his line of thinking on this and went back to referring to it as the coronavirus. However, it is obvious that he is still not satisfied with other explanations, going on to target the World Health Organization (WHO) for allegedly misinforming the US about the extent of the pandemic. According to President Trump, the WHO had become an instrument of the Chinese government and thus misinformed the international community about the outbreak.

The US administration suspended all funding for the WHO on the basis of its mishandling of the coronavirus crisis, with Trump blaming the WHO for acting like China's "public relations agency." However, soon after, information started to leak to the press from US intelligence regarding the origin of the virus.

According to one of these reports, China was apparently misinforming the world about the extent of the outbreak while stockpiling necessary medical supplies. Beijing started to restrict the export of some of the critical medical equipment during the initial period. Trading figures regarding these products demonstrate that US "imports of surgical gowns declined by 71%, surgical face masks by 48%, medical ventilators by 45% and intubation kits by 56%." Another report prepared for Western intelligence agencies again contended that the Chinese government had hidden facts about the coronavirus outbreak very early on, suppressing information and stopping doctors from speaking out about the outbreak. According to this report, the government of China also destroyed a certain amount of evidence and refused to provide samples for scientists around the world, thereby delaying work on a potential cure.

These claims grew yet more controversial when President Trump stated in his coronavirus crisis news conferences that he saw evidence about the origin of the outbreak. He said with a high degree of confidence that he can say the virus originated in a lab in China. Furthermore, he openly stated that he did not believe information given to the WHO by China. In the meantime, China struck back at these allegations and its responsibility for the virus. Following statements by US Secretary of State Mike

Pompeo, the tone in Chinese media started to escalate. This level of tensions will likely spill over into public opinion... soon enough.

As the economic and human costs of the pandemic increase, we may see an escalation of this tension between two major economic superpowers. This escalation may lead to an increasing degree of nationalism in both countries, vying against one another with allegations. While most of the outstanding issues between the two countries have never directly affected the public of either, the coronavirus crisis is something that directly touches on the health and economic wellbeing of all citizens. This direct impact will definitely make a major impact on the image, standing and threat



perception of two countries against each other at the public level. If the virus makes a comeback in the fall, especially, we may see more extreme measures adopted by the two countries against each other.

As the pandemic is worsening, so is the scape-goating. In the US-China tussle, we may see the introduction of a totally new era—that of confrontation based on pandemics. However, no sane person would deny that such infantile blame games and insinuations will only poison an already sour relationship. This time should be treated more than as a show of strength between competing political economies. This is a time to establish joint cooperation and voluntary collaboration to defeat the disease globally.



## Erdoğan & the Question of Resurrection of the Ottoman Empire

What Recep Tayyip Erdoğan is poised to do after the expiration of the Treaty of Lausanne by 2023? Is he really endeavouring to resurrect the Ottoman Caliphate? Almost every political discourse, nowadays, led by political luminaries, spin doctors and academicians, revolves around such questions. The whole world is curious to learn what Turkey, under the auspices of its ambitious leader Erdoğan, is likely to do beyond 2023. Further, to intensify the apprehensions of the foes of Turkey, exceedingly popular Turkish drama "Dirilis: Ertugrul," which is premised on the history of the Ottoman Empire and is patronized by the Erdoğan administration, has also sent shockwaves across the world; for the drama is an implicit move of Turkish authorities to rejuvenate the struggle for reclaiming the Ottoman Empire.

Abdul Rasool Syed



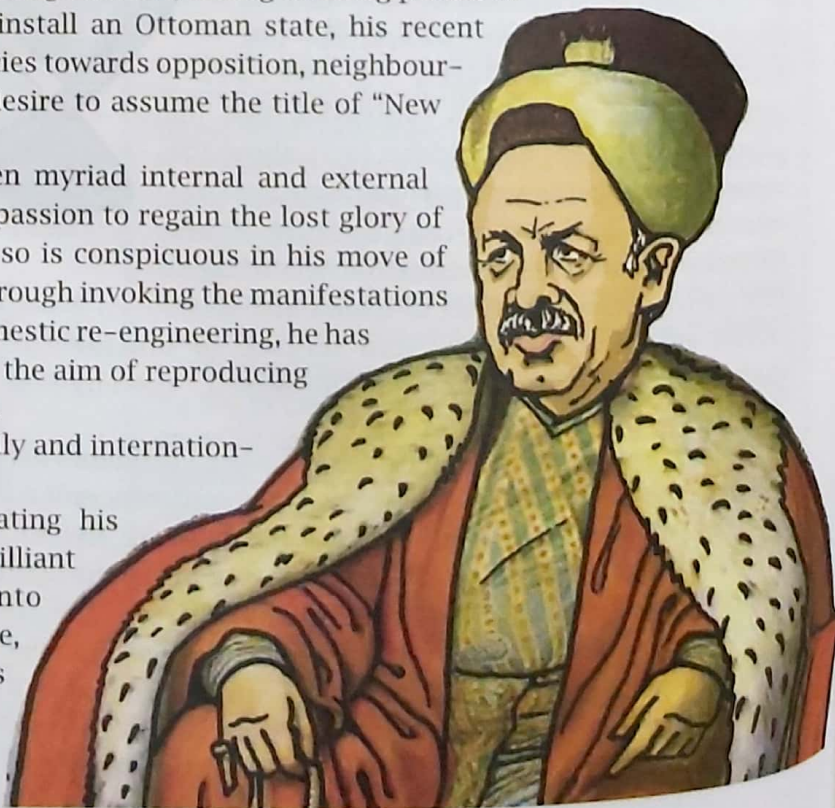
As far as Erdoğan's ambition to revive the Ottoman Empire is concerned, it is quite evident through his policies as well as orientations that he is paving the way to reclaim the Empire by hook or by crook once the Treaty of Lausanne goes dead by 2023. Although denied, during teething period of his political ascent, his aspiration to re-install an Ottoman state, his recent inflammatory rhetoric and aggressive policies towards opposition, neighbour-

ing states and international powers vividly reveal his desire to assume the title of "New Sultan" or "Caliph" in neo-Ottoman dispensation.

To translate his dream into reality, Erdoğan has taken myriad internal and external measures that clearly reflect his aggressive policy and passion to regain the lost glory of Muslims by resurrecting a dead empire. His bid to do so is conspicuous in his move of dismantling and restructuring of the Turkish identity through invoking the manifestations and symbols of the Ottoman heritage. Alongside, his domestic re-engineering, he has also adopted hegemonic and expansionist policies with the aim of reproducing the "Ottoman colonization" era in the Middle East region.

Let's analyze how Erdoğan is flattening the ground locally and internationally for the resurrection of neo-Ottoman Empire.

Domestically, Erdoğan knows that without consolidating his power, it is almost impossible for him to put his brilliant brainchild of rebuilding the Ottoman Caliphate into practice. Realizing this undeniable fact, he, therefore, resumed consolidating power in his own hands. To this end, he transformed Turkish political outlook from parliamentary to presidential one that, for sure, gave him absolute powers at par with those of a king or a





sultan. Abdul Rehman Dilliak, a Turkish thinker affiliated with Erdoğan's regime, opines that the transformation of Turkey's presidential dispensation will allow Turkey to turn into a caliphate, Erdoğan to a caliph of Muslims, and will culminate into opening representative offices of the Ottoman Islamic caliphate at his palace.

In addition, following the footprints of sultans of the Ottoman Empire, Erdoğan has left no stone unturned to crush dissent. He employs the Ottoman legacy as a repressive tool to eliminate political opponents, seeking to put forward an ideology that is diametrically different from Mustafa Kemal Atatürk's secularism. He attempts to do this through implementation of social re-engineering tactics to influence the population to restore the Ottoman values and practices as part of the collective memory. This ensures his political hegemony and the exclusion of opponents, since he is part of the "Ottoman Sultans," for whom the term "opposition" was not in their lexicon of administration.

With an aim to keep the dissent voices at bay, Erdoğan, therefore, arrested a large number of opponents after the failed coup d'état attempt in July 2016. The crackdown included dismissal of state employees, police and military officers, restructuring the administrative apparatus of the state, domination over the judiciary, consolidating his power; making himself all in all by concentrating all legislative, executive and judicial powers into his own hands.

Erdoğan, indubitably, is a man of unprecedented political acumen. He knows that without giving his regime a religious tint, he would not be able to reach his destination. Hence, he is employing all of his occupied resources to morph secular Turkey into an Islamized dispensation. For justification of all his just or unjust moves, he constantly takes refuge in

Islamic cocoon. In his bid to Islamize Turkey, he has made religious education mandatory in Turkish schools, which, of course, confirms his intention to disinter Ottomanism. Moreover, in order to rebuild the image of grandeur, magnificence and splendour that Ottoman Empire epitomized, among his countrymen and in the world, Erdoğan seeks to



revive the historic and architectural patrimony of the Ottoman Empire. In July 2016, for example, he announced his intention to reconstruct some military barracks in Istanbul and to demolish the Atatürk Cultural Center, stating: "We will reconstruct the historic Taksim military barracks in Istanbul's Gezi Park, whether they like it or not,"

defying the opposition of many Turkish citizens.

Furthermore, in August 2016, Erdoğan renamed the largest bridge on the Bosphorus in Istanbul "Selim I," amid intense opposition from Shi'ite Alawis in Turkey, due to their historical hostility towards Sultan Selim I.

Erdoğan is also keen to use Ottoman Empire-inspired symbols in all the details of daily life. For example, he appeared in a photo posted on Twitter in November 2017, with the banner of the 57th Ottoman Army division in front of him.

In addition, he appeared in more than one official occasion—such as during his reception of Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev in January 2015—accompanied by contingent dressed in Ottoman warriors' attires and carrying flags of 16 countries founded by the Ottomans. This component was added to the formal parades on a permanent basis. MP of Balıkesir city from the Justice and Development Party posted a photo in which Erdoğan was surrounded by soldiers and commented by saying: "The 90-year-long Ottoman caliphate's advertising break is over".

Moreover, Erdoğan authorized the teaching of the Ottoman language in schools, announcing in December 2014 that "Teaching of the Ottoman language will inevitably be imple-





mented...whether they like it or not." He also slammed those who oppose the move, describing them as the greatest danger, believing that the move will protect the identity of the state till the Day of Resurrection.

Moreover, on advice of Erdoğan, in January 2015, AKP members of parliament put forward a bill calling for the adoption of the Ottoman Empire "tughra" as the official emblem of the Turkish nation, which had been abolished in 1922 after the fall of the Ottoman Caliphate. The Constitutional Affairs Committee of the Turkish National Assembly agreed on this proposal notwithstanding the opposition of the MPs. This too corroborates the fact that Erdoğan is aggressively pursuing his latent agenda of Ottomanization.

To add, the most appalling and terrifying aspect of Erdoğan's scheme for his foes is his move to develop a new army "The New Janisaries," at par with "Old Janisaries" under Ottoman rule, exclusively tailored to effect the idea of neo-ottoman empire. For example, leaks reported by the Turkish media and published by Fouad Avni, known as the "Snowden of Turkey" in January 2017, said that the SADAT International Defense Consultancy Inc, founded by Adnan Tanriverdi, Erdoğan's advisor, is training young men from the Justice and Development Party for fighting. As mentioned earlier, Erdoğan also encourages Turkish series and movies that show events dating back to the Ottoman era; one manifestation of this support was his visit, in November 2016, to the locations where the scenes of the "Dirili: Ertugrul," a series about the historical founders of the Ottoman state, were picturized.

By resorting to such moves, Erdoğan is playing very smartly. By adhering to the Ottoman principles and fanaticism of the Ottoman State, its history and symbols, Erdoğan wants to send an implicit message that he is

the legitimate heir of the Ottoman Caliphate; a matter that has been repeatedly highlighted by the AKP's media. For example, pro-Erdoğan newspapers put his portrait next to the image of Sultan Abdulhamid II, one of the strongest Ottoman sultans.

Externally, Erdoğan thinks that the Ottoman legacy gives the Turkish nation a historic right to regional hegemony and to represent the Muslim world. Thus, Erdoğan sees his meddling in the Arab countries, deploying military forces in Syria and Iraq, his support for extremist religious organizations in the Arab

them with shelter, sums of money and media platforms to propagate their ideas.

In the same regard, Turkey has engaged in direct military interventions in Syria and Iraq. It maintains a number of military bases in various countries, including Qatar, Northern Cyprus, Syria and Azerbaijan, where it built its first military base in November 2017, and plans to build another eight. All these factors clearly insinuate that Turkey is reasserting itself as an emerging regional hegemonic power.

To sum up, in the light of preceding discussion, it can safely be concluded that Erdoğan is aggressively



states as part of the "imperial policy" that reinforces his colonial vision of the Turkish role in the Middle East. Erdoğan has also pursued regional expansion through constant interference in the affairs of other countries. His speeches reveal his attempts to interfere in the sovereignty of neighbouring countries. He tends to use an aggressive tone towards those whom he deems as "regional adversaries" of Turkey's hegemony. Regional expansionism is not limited to only fiery rhetoric, as Turkey has backed extremist religious movements in several regional states and has provided

pursuing his mission to reinstall the Ottoman Empire. He would, for sure, re-double his efforts to this end after the expiration of the Treaty of Lausanne in 2023. If things go as planned, the importance of Pakistan as the only Muslim country, having nuclear power, would enhance for Turkey and Turkey without genuine support of Pakistan, would not be able to regain its lost prestige and glory. Hence, Pakistan must tailor its foreign policy to meet this emerging new geopolitical reality. ■

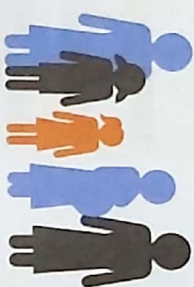
*The writer is a legal practitioner-cum-columnist based in Quetta.*



# The Shadow Pandemic: Violence Against Women and Girls and COVID-19

Globally,

## 243 million



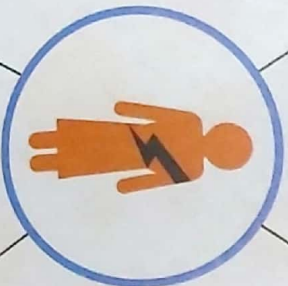
women and girls aged 15-49 have been subjected to sexual and/or physical violence perpetrated by an intimate partner in the previous 12 months.

The number is likely to **INCREASE** as security, health, and money worries heighten tensions and strains are accentuated by cramped and confined living conditions.

Emerging data shows that since the outbreak of COVID-19, violence against women and girls (VAWG), and particularly domestic violence, has **INTENSIFIED**.

In **France**, reports of domestic violence have increased by **30%** since the lockdown on March 17.

In **Argentina** emergency calls for domestic violence cases have increased by **25%** since the lockdown on March 20.



In **Cyprus** and **Singapore** helplines have registered an increase in calls of **30%** and **33%**, respectively.

Increased cases of domestic violence and demand for emergency shelter have also been reported in **Canada, Germany, Spain, the United Kingdom** and the **United States**.

As stay-at-home orders expand to contain the spread of the virus, women with violent partners increasingly find themselves isolated from the people and resources that can help them.

### 87,000 women

were intentionally killed in 2017. The majority of these killings were committed by an intimate partner or family member of the victim.

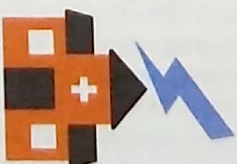
Violence against women and girls is pervasive but at the same time widely under-reported. Less

than **40%** of women who experience violence report these crimes or seek help of any sort.

The global cost of violence against women had previously been estimated at approximately **US\$1.5 trillion** That figure can only be rising as violence increases now, and continues in the aftermath of the pandemic.

### The surge in COVID-19

cases is straining even the most advanced and best-resourced health systems to the breaking point, including those at the front line in violence response.



Domestic violence shelters are reaching capacity, or unable to take new victims due to lockdown and social distancing measures. In other cases, they are being re-purposed to serve as health centers.

### National responses to COVID-19 must include:



#### Services to address violence against women and girls, including

increased resources to support shelters, hotlines and online counselling. These essential services should be expanded to address the crisis context to ensure survivors' access to support.



#### A strong message from law enforcement that impunity will not be tolerated.

Police and justice actors must ensure that incidents of VAWG are given high priority and care must be taken to address the manifestations of violence emerging in the context of COVID 19.



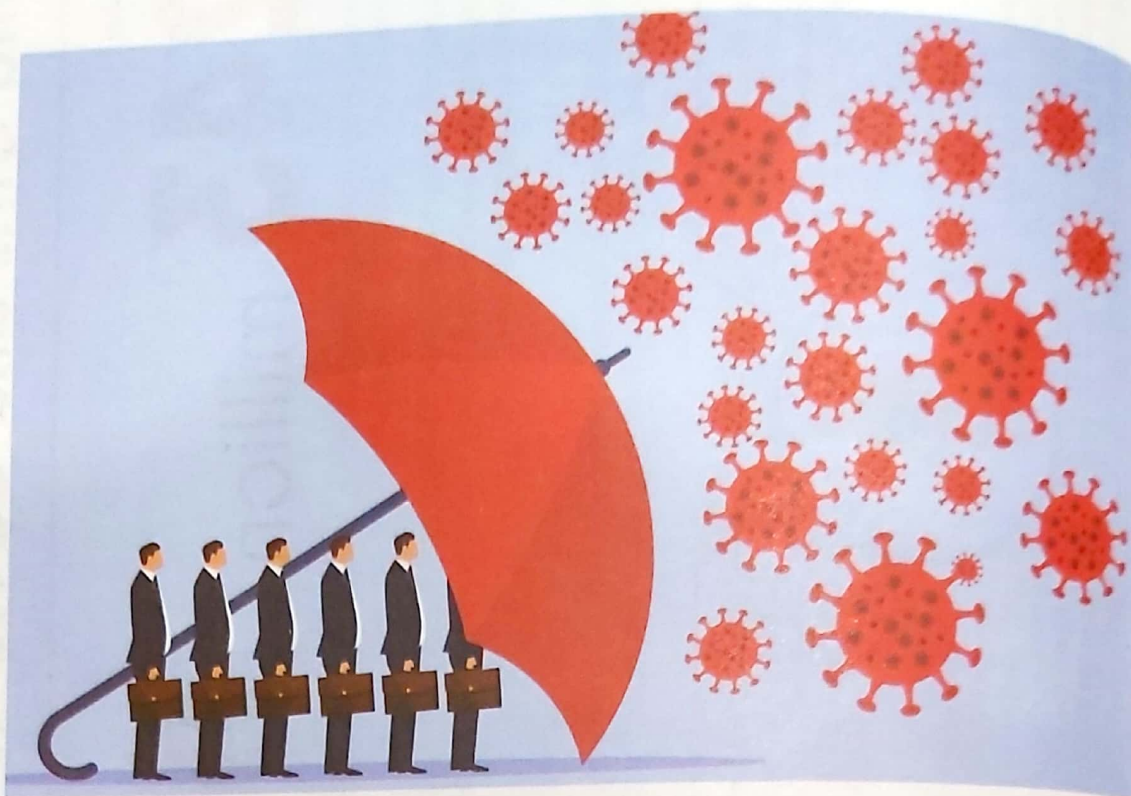
#### Psychosocial support for women and girls affected by the outbreak, gender-based violence survivors, frontline health workers and other

frontline social support staff must be prioritized.



In December last year, a new kind of virus which started to emerge in Wuhan, a city in Hubei province of the People's Republic of China, has now become a maelstrom for the entire planet.

Those individuals, who were taking the Covid-19 pandemic as venial, trusting in the misguided judgement that they will contain this, are now in unequivocal shock and awe. As of May 15, it has devoured around 300,000 human lives and many countries are still under lockdown, bringing life to a halt. Humans are being affected at large scale and global economy, too, is facing a looming recession.



## Spiral Engagement of Covid-19 and Changing Global Outlook

Mehtab Ali Bhatti



At present, there is no smart treatment available to combat the coronavirus. The Covid-19 pandemic is profoundly infectious as it spreads from person to person through the air and a touch by the virus-infected person.

The intense suffering caused by this pandemic is not simply faced by the developing or the underdeveloped nations, developed nations, too, are facing the wrath of coronavirus. However, two countries—South Korea and Singapore—took intelligent, timely measures

and they successfully contained the spread of the killer disease. However, many Western countries like the United States, United Kingdom, Italy, Spain and France, have been dreadfully unable to control the spread of Covid-19.

After 9/11 and financial crisis of 2008-09, the coronavirus pandemic has dealt a third fatal shock to the world economy in the 21st century. Take the example of China's economy, which happens to be the world's second biggest. The Covid-19 has caused a decline of 20% in just first 60 days of 2020 and the country's exports fell by as much as 17%. By March, manufacturing sector and automobiles sales have nosedived by a new low record of 80%.

As indicated by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the Covid-19 epidemic has affected the demand and supply system. From the perspective of supply, work diminished in numbers because of the disease as workers can't work at factories and industrial units, and this upsets the supply chain. In addition, the virus has brought all activities to a standstill in regions on which big firms of developed nations rely to get the raw material and other parts. On the demand side, measures like social distancing and staying at home have diminished the propensity to consume. Manufacturing concerns are facing huge difficulties in marketing their products as there is no demand for them in the present circumstances.

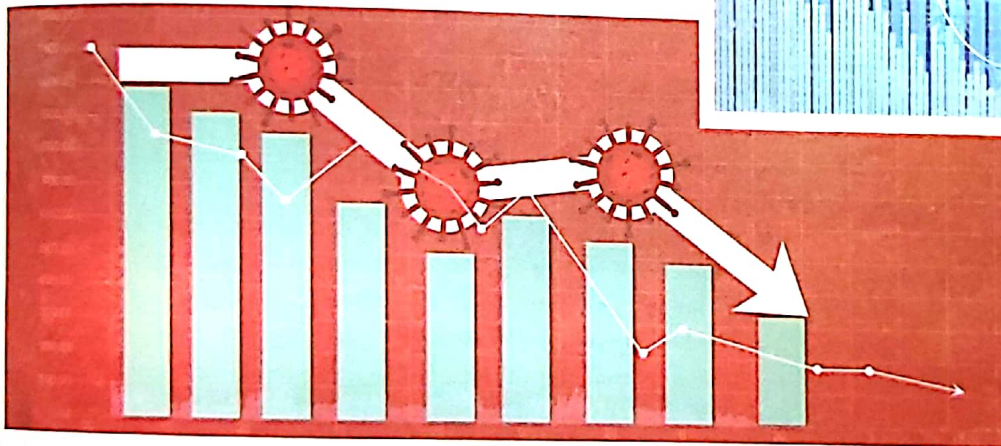
International financial institutions, like JP Morgan, Goldman Sachs and Morgan Stanley, have estimated that America's annual GDP may see a 6% decline in the first quarter and between 20% and 30% in the second quarter of the ongoing fiscal year. The US Treasury Secretary, Steven Mnuchin, has



warned that merciless reflection of the pandemic could hit twice the global financial crisis—up to 30%. The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) has reported that the Covid-19 might slash the global GDP growth rate of the year 2020 from 2.9% to 2.4%. In addressing the Covid-19 pandemic, as many as 185 governments in the world have imposed lockdowns and have issued stay-at-home orders for the people. Travel, tourism and entertainment industries have also borne a severe financial brunt of the pandemic. It is estimated that international airlines could suffer a loss of between \$60 billion and \$115 billion.

The Covid-19 has changed our lives in ways that will leave a perpetual imprint on the future humankind. While it is difficult to foresee the specific kind of scars that the pandemic will leave, there is no doubt that the post-Covid-19 world will be altogether different. There are four possible ways the world will look different from the pre-pandemic era:

1. A huge economic recession seems imminent. With nations going into lockdown and small businesses shut down, we are witnessing a steep economic decline all over the world. Rise in unemployment and poverty has effected a decrease in average incomes. What is more stressing is that the



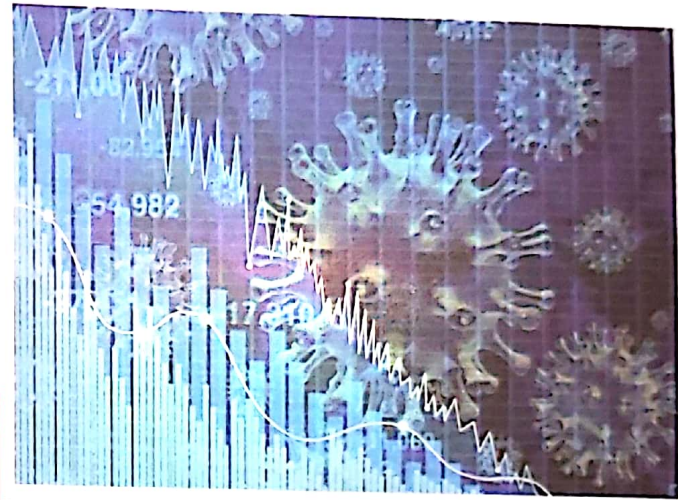
economic impact of Covid-19 will be more profound on developing nations like Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh. Unfortunately, they don't have the financial space to bail out their workers, who have been forced to stay at home for long. Owing to economic compulsions, these countries will have no choice but to lift the lockdown and open up at least some, if not all, sectors of their economies. But what may happen when the lockdown is lifted is anybody's guess. It is feared that these nations will have to bear a greater cost in the form of human lives as well.

2. The state power has been used in exceptional ways across the world, and it will surely have consequences on how governments work in post-coronavirus era. For example, in East Asia, worries about data protection have been ignored to cope with the infection. The data that has been, and is being, used to curb the spread of the pandemic, can be utilized for other detestable purposes. All things considered, governments in the post-Covid-19 world will

be influential and more imposing in terms of power.

3. Worldwide trade and globalization may also face a crisis. In such circumstance, when the governments scared by the spread of the disease have chosen to repudiate certain factors of globalization and exchange, the future of global connectivity seems bleak.

4. Covid-19 may shift the power paradigm from the Western hemisphere to the Eastern hemisphere. Power transference in the world order is probably not going to happen rapidly, yet the Covid-19 emergency can go about as an intense impetus to this procedure. The current situation has called attention to the viability of nations like China, South Korea,



Taiwan and Singapore in curbing the pandemic, even when these nations had less reaction time as compared to that the Western countries had. In case of Pakistan, the Covid-19 spread through foreign travellers, mostly those coming from the Middle East and Europe—mainly from Iran and

Italy. The only conventional pragmatism for the people is to practice social distancing which, in our case, can be feasible only through a strict lockdown. Otherwise, there will be huge loss of lives besides an incredible economic cost.

Pakistan Institute of Development Economics has estimated that unemployment will be exponentially high and the country will bear over 2.4% annual GDP decline in the wake of Covid-19. According to the World Bank estimations, Pakistan may see economic recession in multiple sectors and losses of Rs1.3 trillion, which would be a huge blow to our GDP growth. ■

It is now on our economic managers and policymakers to carve out pragmatic policies that are based on ground realities to deal with the aftershocks of the Covid-19.

*The author is an undergraduate student at Strategic Studies Department, National Defence University, Islamabad*



## To America with Love

Prof. Sabahat Hussain

Dear Americans

As a citizen of the world, mostly run and controlled by the United States as a superpower, I am deeply aggrieved at the sufferings Americans are going through these days due to the novel coronavirus. The United States of America has always been an ideal place for the people around the world; a symbol of prosperity and advancement. For them, it was like a second-home; a land of opportunities. It has always been the cherished destination for the job-seekers, businessmen and tourists. American citizenship has been the dream of every young man across the globe.

In these times of distress when Americans are combating the corona devastation, the inhabitants of the Third World are particularly worried, and wish you good luck. They hope you will come out of this crisis sooner. This is, no doubt, the worst of times but is also the best of times to learn some lessons, re-evaluate your past and change your outlook for the future. It is time for Americans to redefine their relationship with the rest of the world.

Please do consider the following points once you get out of the corona plight:

1. American leadership and media have always created paranoia among its citizens that the rest of the world is their enemy, and only military might could secure them. This is totally a misperception.
2. Peace of mind is more important than lifestyle. It is time, dear Americans, not to secure your lifestyle, but to change it. Tell yourselves that Americans are not special people; they are as human as others. America must act like a big brother, not as a big boss. Share your lifestyle with others; you will not need aircraft carriers and atomic bombs to guard it.
3. Renounce the self-assumed responsibility of making and breaking the nations. Let other nations take care of their affairs; they can manage themselves without your interference.
4. Capitalism with free market economy is not the only and the absolute system. Corona has exposed fragility of the capitalist economy.
5. Stop spending on war machines, and lock down all armament factories.
6. Let the United Nations work as an independent organization.
7. Stop looking for imaginary enemies and destroying them, but rather focus on the wellbeing of your own people.
8. The West has successfully separated religion and politics; it is time to disconnect economy and politics.
9. A peaceful world around you is the only guarantee for peace in America; not the stockpiles of weapons.
10. Please accept your part of the blame and do not look for a new enemy, to destroy.

Dear Americans, once you come out of the current crisis, please send your soldiers and marines to all those parts of the world which you invaded at different times in the past; however, not with guns but roses in their hands. They must visit the mass graves of the victims of those offshore offensives launched in the name of democracy and human rights. People of Hiroshima, Nagasaki, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, North Korea, Iraq, Afghanistan, Granada, Cuba, Algeria, Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, Nicaragua, Senegal, Tunisia, Libya, Somalia, Uganda, Kenya, Djibouti, Bosnia—to mention a few—are looking forward to seeing a new look and outlook of America. Record suggests that the United States has invaded or fought in 84 of the 193 countries recognized by the United Nations and has been militarily involved with 191.

It would be pertinent to recall here the story of Oedipus Rex by Sophocles. In the play, the king of Thebes is told that a sphinx was killing people in his country. He pledges to his people that he would find the cause of the sickness that had struck the land. He summons the high priest and asks him to identify the cause of that devastation. The blind priest (Teiresias) says that there was somebody in the country that was responsible for the plague due to his depraved life. However, the priest refuses to name that person. The king gets angry and accuses the priest of being fake and dishonest. He orders him to speak the truth or face punishment. To this the priest replies:

Is that so? Then I would ask you to stand by the very words which you yourself proclaimed and from now on not speak to me or these men. For the accursed polluter of this land is you.

Ultimately, the king realizes the truth that he himself was the defilement that had brought the suffering to his people. He blinds himself and leaves the country.

We all must open our eyes to the facts, if we want to keep away the option of self-blindness.

(The writer is a retired professor of English literature from Pakistan.)

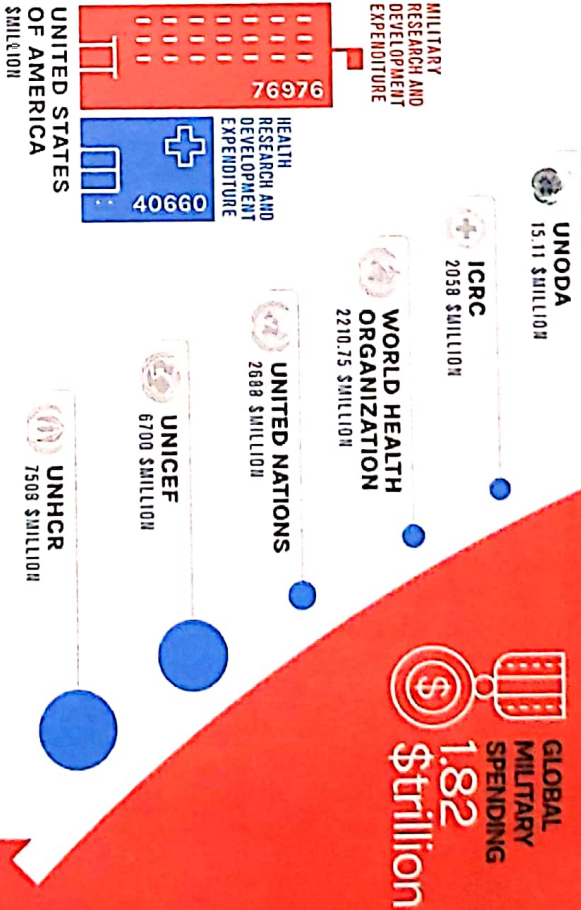


# HEALTHCARE NOT WARFARE

ARMS AND MILITARY HARDWARE COMPARED WITH HEALTH SERVICES AND EQUIPMENT

 <b>COMBAT AIRCRAFT F-35</b> <b>UNIT PRICE</b> <b>89 \$MILLION</b> <b>COST PER HOUR</b> <b>\$44000</b>	 <b>3244 ICU BED</b> <b>PRICE ANNUAL MAINTENANCE:</b> \$27500 <b>ANNUAL GROSS SALARY NURSE IN HOSPITAL (OECD)</b> <b>\$42000</b>
 <b>VIRGINIA CLASS SUBMARINE</b> <b>UNIT PRICE</b> <b>2800 \$MILLION</b>	 <b>9180 FULLY EQUIPPED AMBULANCE</b> <b>UNIT PRICE:</b> \$305000
 <b>FREMM CLASS FRIGATE</b> <b>UNIT PRICE</b> <b>936 \$MILLION</b>	 <b>10662 DOCTORS (GENERAL PRACTITIONERS)</b> <b>AVERAGE YEAR REMUNERATION OF OECD:</b> \$87791
 <b>LEOPARD23 BATTLE TANK</b> <b>UNIT PRICE</b> <b>11 \$MILLION</b>	 <b>440 VENTILATORS</b> <b>UNIT PRICE:</b> \$25000
 <b>TRIDENT II MISSILE with nuclear warheads capacity</b> <b>UNIT PRICE</b> <b>31 \$MILLION</b>	 <b>90 TEST COVID-19</b> <b>UNIT PRICE FOR THE CDC OF USA:</b> \$36 <b>ANNUAL MAINTENANCE FOR A BED IN THE HOSPITAL</b> <b>PRICE:</b> \$5000-\$10000

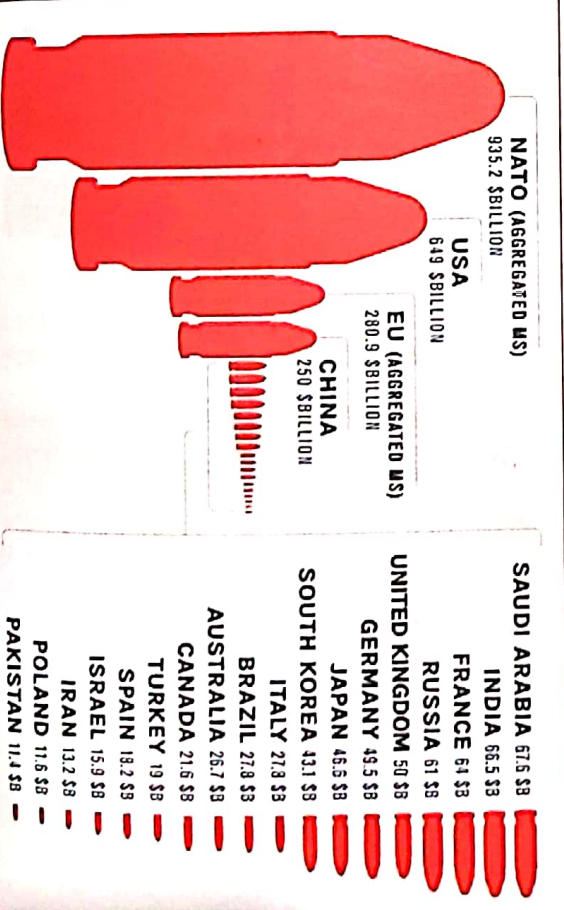
## HUMAN SECURITY-ORIENTED SPENDING



## MILITARY SPENDING

GLOBAL MILITARY SPENDING  
**\$1.82 Trillion**

## MILITARY SPENDING





# Religious Intolerance in India

USCIRF recommends imposition of 'targeted sanctions'

Magazine Desk

## Key Findings

In 2019, religious freedom conditions in India experienced a drastic turn downward, with religious minorities under increasing assault. Following the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) re-election in May, the national government used its strengthened parliamentary majority to institute national level policies violating religious freedom across India, especially for Muslims. The national government allowed violence against minorities and their houses of worship to continue with impunity, and also engaged in and tolerated hate speech and incitement to violence.

Significantly, the BJP-led government enacted the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA)—a fast track to citizenship for non-Muslim migrants from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, and Pakistan already residing in India—and approved a National Population Register (NPR) as a first step toward a nation-wide National Register of Citizens (NRC). The border state of Assam, under mandate of the Supreme Court, implemented a state-wide NRC to identify illegal migrants within Assam. When the state-wide NRC August 2019, 1.9 million residents—both Muslims and Hindus—were excluded. Those excluded live in fear of the consequences:

United Nations (UN) Special Rapporteurs warned that exclusion from the NRC could result in "statelessness, deportation, or prolonged detention." Indeed, Home Minister Amit Shah referred to migrants as "termites" to be eradicated. Troubled that Hindus were excluded from Assam's NRC, he and other BJP officials advocated for the CAA as a corrective measure to protect Hindus. The CAA provides listed non-Muslim religious communities a path to restore their citizenship and avoid detention or deportation. In its wake, BJP leaders have continued to advocate for a nationwide NRC; the citizenship of millions would be placed under question, but, with the CAA in place, Muslims alone would bear the indignities and consequences of potential statelessness.

The CAA's passage in December sparked nationwide protests that police and government-aligned groups met with violence; in Uttar Pradesh (UP), the BJP chief minister Yogi Adityanath pledged "revenge" against anti-CAA protestors

Under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India's religious bigotry has seen an exponential growth. Religious minorities, especially the Muslims, are being subjected to persecution under state patronage. This dangerously growing trend is now projecting the real image of the country to the international community. Religious intolerance and persecution of minorities has reached to such heights the world seems no longer ready to give India a carte blanche to go on with its severe violations of human rights in the country. It is in this context that the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) has placed India on its list of 'countries of particular concern' (CPC) in its annual report. Following is the excerpt from the report related to India:

was released in

Those



## INTERNATIONAL

and stated they should be fed "bullets not biryani." In December, close to 25 people died in attacks against protestors and universities in UP alone. According to reports, police action specifically targeted Muslims.

Throughout 2019, government action—including the CAA, continued enforcement of cow slaughter and anti-conversion laws, and the November Supreme Court ruling on the Babri Masjid site—created a culture of impunity for nationwide campaigns of harassment and violence against religious minorities. In August, the government also revoked the



CHRISTIANS



days of violence erupted in Delhi with mobs attacking Muslim neighborhoods. There were reports of Delhi police, operating under the Home Ministry's authority, failing to halt attacks and even directly participating in the violence. At least 50 people were killed.

**Background**

India's population is 79.8 percent Hindu, 14.2 percent Muslim, 2.3 percent Christian, 1.7 percent Sikh, 0.7 percent Buddhist, and 0.4 percent Jain; smaller groups include Zoroastrians (Parsis), Jews, and Baha'is. India's constitution defines the nation as secular and protects freedom of religion or

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assed the enship for ndia from kistan by religious ven more a nation- l after the is a goal d repeat- The NRC ant con- ould not

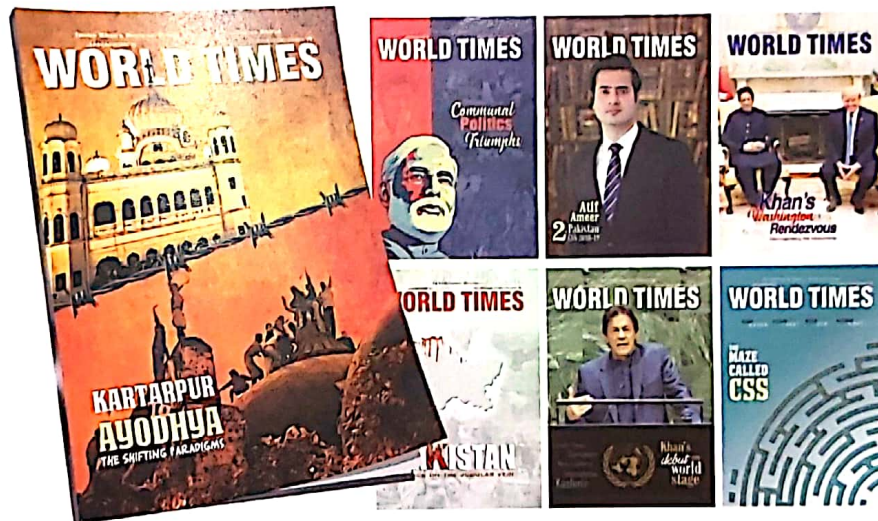
present the necessary documents due to poor record-keeping or illiteracy. Even with documentation, citizens were excluded because of minor inconsistencies; some were excluded despite using the same documents as included relatives. The Foreigners' Tribunals that adjudicate citizenship status have been critiqued for their anti-minority bias. In December, the Parliament approved an NPR to collect residents' citizenship data. According to government statements and under the

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called existing laws sufficient and denied lynchings had increased, while the Home Ministry instructed the National Crime Records Bureau to omit lynchings from the 2019 crime data report.

During 2019, discriminatory policies, inflammatory rhetoric, and tolerance for violence against minorities at the national, state, and local level increased the climate of fear among non-Hindu communities. After the reporting period, India continued on this negative trajectory. In February 2020, three



PARSIS



JAINS



Citizenship Rules, 2003, the NPR—which allows residents to be marked as “doubtful citizens” and placed under scrutiny—is the first step toward a nation-wide NRC.

#### **Cow Slaughter Laws**

In Hinduism, the cow is considered sacred. Article 48 of India's constitution directs the state to “take steps... prohibiting the slaughter of cows and calves,” and 21 states criminalize cow slaughter in various forms. Cow protection has been promoted as a key issue by the BJP and the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS). Lynch mobs, often organized over social media, have attacked minorities—including Muslims, Christians, and Dalits—under suspicion of eating beef, slaughtering cows, or transporting cattle for slaughter. Since the BJP came to power in 2014, there have been over 100 attacks, amounting to over 98 percent of such attacks since 2010. Lynching victims, rather than the perpetrators, are often arrested under these laws.

#### **Anti-Conversion Laws**

While the constitution protects the right to proselytize, 10 states have anti-conversion laws criminalizing conversions using force, allurement, inducement, or fraud, but many use vague language that can be interpreted as prohibiting consensual conversions. In 2019, BJP-ruled Himachal Pradesh increased the penalties for forced conversions.

Authorities predominately arrest Muslims and Christians for conversion activities. To date, however, there are no known convictions for forced conversion. Hindutva groups pursue mass conversions through ceremonies known as *ghar wapsi* (homecoming), without interference from authorities. Empowered by anti-conversion laws and often with the police's complicity, Hindutva groups also conduct campaigns of harassment, social exclusion and violence against Christians, Muslims, and other religious minorities across the country. Following attacks by Hindutva groups against religious minorities for conversion activities, the police often arrest the religious minorities who have been attacked.

In September 2019, the Home Ministry introduced new rules under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act requiring all members of nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) to sign an affidavit affirming they have “not been prosecuted or convicted for indulging in forced religious conversion or creating communal tensions” to receive foreign funding. Faith-based NGOs, in particular Christian organizations, expressed fear that this is intended to limit their activities.

#### **Religious Freedom in Jammu and Kashmir**

In August 2019, the government stripped Muslim-

majority Jammu and Kashmir's autonomy and imposed security measures, including restricting freedom of movement and assembly, cutting Internet and phone access, and arresting Kashmiri leaders, including religious leaders. The restrictions on movement and assembly limited the ability to attend prayers and religious ceremonies. USCIRF also received several reports of mosques being closed, imams and Muslim leaders arrested and detained, and threats and violence by extremist groups.

#### **Key US Policy**

During 2019, the United States and India strengthened their relationship, especially in security and defense. In December, the two governments signed an agreement for defense technology transfers during a 2+2 ministerial dialogue. President Donald J. Trump and Prime Minister Narendra Modi appeared together at the September “Howdy Modi” event in Houston, Texas, during which the President praised this relationship. Amid these positive developments, US officials highlighted concerns with India's religious freedom violations through public statements, congressional hearings, and bilateral engagements. In October, US Ambassador-at-Large for Religious Freedom, Samuel D. Brownback, travelled to India. The Indian government, however, continued to reject the State Department's and USCIRF's reporting on religious freedom violations in India. □



#### **Recommendations to the US Government**

- Designate India as a “country of particular concern,” or CPC, for engaging in and tolerating systematic, ongoing, and egregious religious freedom violations, as defined by the International Religious Freedom Act (IRFA);
- Impose targeted sanctions on Indian government agencies and officials responsible for severe violations of religious freedom by freezing those individuals' assets and/ or barring their entry into the United States under human rights-related financial and visa authorities, citing specific religious freedom violations;
- Strengthen the US Embassy's and consulates' engagement with religious communities, local officials, and police, especially in regions impacted by religiously motivated violence; increase US partnerships with Indian law enforcement to build capacity to protect religious minorities, houses of worship, and other holy sites, and confront religion-based hate crimes; and
- Allocate funding to support civil society to create a monitoring and early warning system in partnership with police to challenge hate speech and incitement to violence.

The US Congress should:

- Continue to hold hearings highlighting religious freedom conditions in India and U.S. policy toward India.



## INTERNATIONAL

# India's Defence Budget 2020-21

*Deceptive figures, faulty analyses*

For year 2020-21, India's Modi-led BJP government has allocated Indian Rupees (INR) 3,23,053 crore (about \$45.8 billion at current exchange rate) for 'defence services'. This excludes pensions and running of the defence administration—the ministry and the departments so concerned. It is 9.37 percent higher than the budget estimates for 2019-20. For modernization and buying new weapon systems, defence forces have been allocated Rs1,107.34 billion (PKR2,393 billion) which is Rs 103.40 billion more than what was provided in last year's budget. A lion's share of the budget has been allocated to the Army, followed by the Navy and the Air Force.



Amjed Jaaved

India's Union Budget for the financial year 2020-21, which was presented by the country's Finance Minister Ms Nirmala Sitharaman on February 01, 2020, envisages a total outlay of INR 30,42,230 crore. Out of this, an amount of INR 3,37,553 crore has been allocated for military (excluding military pension)—for military pensions, INR 1,33,825 crore have been provided in Budget Estimates 2020-21. Overall, there is an increase of INR 40,367.21 crore in the total military allocations (INR 4, 71,378 crore) including Defence Pension over the financial year 2019-20. Total defence budget accounts for 15.49 percent of the total central government expenditure for the year 2020-21.

The allocation of INR 4, 71,378 crore represents a growth of 9.37 percent over Budget Estimates of INR 4, 31,010.79 crore for the previous financial year. Out of INR 3,37,553 crore allocated for the financial year 2020-21, INR 2,18,998 crore is for the Revenue (Net) expenditure and INR 1,18,555 crore is for capital expenditure for the Defence Services and the Organisations/Departments under Ministry of Defence. The amount of INR 1,18,555 crore that has been allocated for capital expenditure includes modernisation-related expenditure.

## Deceptive figures

The 'transparent' military expenditures on websites show an increase of only 9.37 percent. But, if we add to it the concealed provisions, the increase would balloon manifolds. The concealed provisions include quasi-defence allocations like border and strategic roads, nuclear/space research, paramilitary forces like Border Security Force, Central Reserve Police Force, and so on. Besides, there are public-sector undertakings like dockyards, machine tool industries (Mishra Dhatu Nigam), and Bharat Heavy Electrical Limited. Then, India unnoticeably increases its defence expenditure under Revised and Actual budget estimates. But the real expenditure in past years has been much greater than that exhibited on websites. In the past, India increased its military outlays in revised and then actual estimates. Thus the actual military expenditure is much higher than the initial estimates, quoted in international media under a hypnotic spell.

## Why India does so?

India does so to 'lower' its military budget as proportion of its gross national product (GNP). Through such ploys, India, as compared with its neighbours, gets a favourable image in The Military Balance, Jane's Defense, and other



international magazines.

Without a hard copy of Explanatory Memorandum to Demands for Grants, it is difficult to analyse the budget. The memorandum could throw light on India's mega purchases. They include carbine rifles for army, Advanced Jet Trainers, Airborne Warning and Control system, additional Mi-17 Helicopters, MiG-29 upgrade, Low-Level Transportable Radar, Integrated Air Command and Control System and Surveillance Radar Element in respect for the air force. Weapon Locating Radar and T-72 upgrade in respect of the Army, Rafals, so on.

During his recent visit to India, President Trump of the United States offered to sell India US\$ 3 billion (per one unit) Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) and Patriot Advanced Capability (PAC-3) missile defence systems as an alternative to the Russian S-400 system. India ditched Russia from whom it had decided to purchase five S-400 air defence systems at a cost of US\$5.4 billion. With tacit US support, India is getting tougher with China. There was a 73-day standoff on the Doklam (Donglang in Chinese) plateau near the Nathula Pass on Sikkim border last year.

#### **Pax Indica**

At us prodding, India revised its maritime strategy in 2015 to "Ensuring Secure Seas". The previous strategy was "Freedom to Use the Seas. To implement the new strategy, India built the Chabahar port. India took up the development of the Sittwe Port in Myanmar as part of the Kaladan multi-modal transit transport project for building a multi-modal sea, river and road transport corridor for shipment of cargo from the eastern ports of India to Myanmar through Sittwe. India upgraded its existing listening post in northern Madagascar. India has obtained access to the US naval base in Diego Garcia, and to the French naval bases in Mayotte and Reunion Islands, besides Australian naval base in Cocos (Keeling). Robert D. Kaplan, in his book, *Monsoon: The Indian Ocean and Future of American Power*, argues that the geopolitics of the twenty-first century will hinge on the Indian Ocean. Waters of the Indian Ocean reach 28 countries which together account for 35 percent of the world's population and 19 per cent of the world's gross domestic product. Sixty percent of the world's oil shipments from the Gulf countries to China, Japan and other Asian countries pass through these waters which host 23 of the world's busiest ports.

#### **Nuclear/Chemical capability**

It is pertinent to mention that Robert S. McNamara, in his address to the World Bank Annual Conference on Development Economics at Washington, DC, as far back as on April 25, 1991, inter alia classified India among the Countries reported by the Western governments as seeking a CW capability or suspected to be possessing chemical weapons'. The explanatory footnote to the Table 111-2: Distribution of Chemical Weapons, 1990, states that the classified countries denied possession of chemical weapons, or intentions to acquire such weapons (Source: *The Post-Cold War World and its Implications for Military Expenditures in the Developing*

### **India's Defence Budget for FY2020-21 Strategic Implications for Pakistan**

India's burgeoning defence pension costs provide adequate time and space for Pakistan to develop indigenous solutions as well as encourage transfer of technologies from friendly countries, particularly China and certain European countries. Pakistan has so far made up for its lack of conventional firepower superiority by improving the potency and accuracy of its strategic arsenal. This pragmatic course of action has, however, not reduced the international political and diplomatic pressure to rein in what many proclaim is a 'growing' and 'unjustified' nuclear stockpile.

The new defence budget can impact the Indian Army's offensive combat capabilities and the Indian Navy's strategic ambition to attain dominance of the high seas in pursuit of the Washington-led 'Indo-Pacific' strategy. Therefore, although Indian Armed Forces' modernisation remains a distant dream, the lack of hardware can be compensated through diversion of funds to build-up integrated tri-services capabilities in the Cyber, Outer Space and Special Operations domains.



From Pakistan's perspective, India's defence budget for FY2020-21 rationalises the BJP's continued preference for Special Forces to make up for conventional force limitations; although tactical in nature, these so-called 'surgical strikes' incur strategic ramifications for all stakeholders. Moreover, diminishing funds for operational costs help the Indian government justify testing of strategic missiles including ICBMs.

Even if the Indian Finance Commission approves a separate funds-generation mechanism for defence acquisitions (as proposed by the Ministry of Defence), it will take a considerable time to materialise in view of India's lethargic bureaucratic structure. For Pakistan, therefore, the current strategic threat spectrum from India remains unchanged.

In the aforementioned context, the federal government would be wise to prioritise force modernisation of Pakistan Navy in the next budget.



## INTERNATIONAL

Countries, by Robert McNamara). Methyl isocyanates were being produced at the Union Carbide India when it exploded, killing thousands of people. There were 27 factories producing products including Carbaryl through cyanates supplied by UCIL. Vizag Gas Leak also has military potential.

Where does provision for CBW research appear in India's military budgets?

The Washington Post reported in 2013 that the police in Occupied Kashmir published a notice in the Greater Kashmir (now under black out), advising people about nuclear-war survival tips. The tips included constructing well-stocked bunkers in basements or front yards, and having a stock of food and batteries or candles to last at least two weeks.

Colossal expenditure on conventional weapons by a nuclear power is not understood. Nuclear deterrence does not mean matching bomb for bomb. Nuclear victory would at best be pyrrhic.

#### A US proxy

India is emerging as the US proxy against rising China, which is determined to surpass the USA in GDP by 2027. India is opposed to China's Belt and Road Initiative. Besides, it uses its aid, trade and border contiguity to obstruct Chinese influence in Bhutan, Nepal, and Bangladesh. At India's bidding, those countries toe the Indian line in SAARC and other international forums like G-20. In 2005, Washington expressed its intention to help India become a major world power in the 21st century (according to K. Alan Kronsstadt, Congressional Research Service Report for Congress, 13 February 2007). It was later reaffirmed by Ambassador David Mulford in a US Embassy press in 2005.

Henry Kissinger views Indian ambitions in the following words: 'Just as the early American leaders developed in the Monroe Doctrine concept for America's special role in the Western Hemisphere, so India has established in practice a special positioning in the Indian Ocean region between East Indies and the Horn of Africa. Like Britain with respect to Europe in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, India strives to prevent the emergence of a dominant power in this vast portion of the globe. Just as early American leaders did not seek approval of the countries of the

Western Hemisphere with respect to the Monroe Doctrine, so India in the region of its special strategic interests conducts its policy on the basis of its own definition of a South Asian order' (World Order, New York, Penguin Press, 2014).

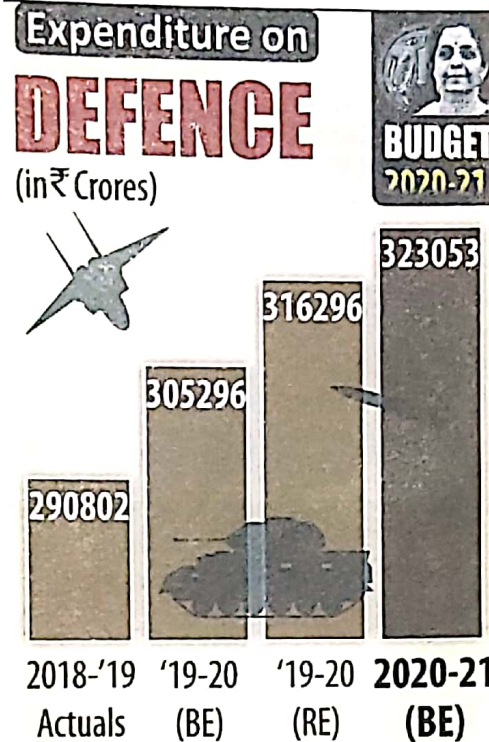
Zbigniew Brzezinski takes note of India's ambition to rival China thus: 'Indian strategies speak openly of greater India exercising a dominant position in an area ranging from Iran to Thailand. India is also positioning itself to control the Indian Ocean militarily; its naval and air power programmes point clearly in that direction as do politically guided efforts to establish for strong positions, with geostrategic implications in adjoining Bangladesh and Burma (Strategic Vision: America and the Crisis of Global Power).

To woo India firmly into its fold, the USA offered to sell India Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD, for \$3 billion per unit) and Patriot Advance Capability (PAC-3) missile defence systems as an alternative to the Russian S-400 air defence

system. India ditched Russia from whom it had earlier decided to purchase five S-400s at a cost of \$5.4 billion.

#### Inferences

Any analysis of India's military budget should be based on actual Demands for Grants coupled with Explanatory



memoranda. The allocations concealed under civil ministries' outlays should be ferreted out and added to military allocations. The successive increases in revised and then actual budget estimates should be taken into account. As a result of India's rising military expenditures, Pakistan also increases her defence expenditure. ■



## INTERNATIONAL

**W**hen Donald Trump and Narendra Modi rose to power in their respective countries, the world assumed that the long-term imperative of Indo-US relations is far bigger for either of the two men to disrupt the momentum. However, this conviction seems to be falling apart now.

Over the past couple of years, slowdown of the economy in India, growing social unrest and, most recently, the global slowdown because of coronavirus outbreak has cast shadows on the 'glittering' relationship between New Delhi and Washington. Especially, India's slow economic growth and inability to modernise rapidly has irked the US most. More specifically, the relations went off the track in the first half of the last year after the United States and India got into a tit-for-tat tariff war following the US' termination of India's Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) status which would allow New Delhi to send certain goods to the US duty-free. There have been continuing efforts to structure a 'modest' trade deal since then, however nothing could be materialized during Modi's visit to US last September as well as during Trump's recent India visit.

Trump has repeatedly called out India as a source of US trade deficit. There's also the issue of restrictions on H-1B work visas. Trump has repeatedly accused tech companies in the United States of using the program to replace Americans with cheaper foreign workers, 75% of those from India. The lack of anything concrete reveals just how far apart the United States and India are on a litany of issues, including trade deficits, agricultural tariffs and non-tariff barriers, intellectual property rights, investment barriers and digital services. The inability to get any meaningful trade

agreement in place during the recent visit of President Trump speaks volumes about India's potential future relations with the US, especially with Trump as president. On top of this, Donald Trump and his transactional outlook towards foreign policy has soured the Indo-US relationship.

Disputes related to trade and investments have been increasingly contested in the public, and not resolved at diplomatic levels. Trump lauding progress in US-Pakistan relations and counterterrorism cooperation in Modi's political base of Ahmedabad was another surprising feature of the trip. At a media engagement along with Modi, Trump once again offered to mediate the Kashmir dispute, which only served to further agonize India.

Trump and Modi are raising some disquieting questions on the future direction of US-India relations, according to William J. Burns, President of the Carnegie Endowment. After a resounding re-election last spring, Modi has struggled with India's most severe economic slowdown in three decades. Lacking a compelling strategy for the economy, he has doubled down on the one set of issues for which the BJP has a

very clear and unified vision: Hindu majoritarianism. Soon after his re-election, Modi revoked the constitutionally protected autonomy of occupied valley of Kashmir. His government also pushed a new citizenship law that discriminates against Muslims. The BJP has also run into political difficulties in state and local elections. This political turmoil has only added to India's economic difficulties, and put a strain on the country's relationship with the US, according to Burns.

In the process of his personal embrace of President Trump, Modi too has opened a new Pandora's Box. During the Houston event last year, Modi was seen tacitly endorsing Trump's re-election, which has generated some bad blood with the Democrats. Senator Bernie Sanders and Senator Elizabeth Warren have been openly critical of Modi's policies, especially the controversial Citizenship Act. Several Indian opposition leaders have also criticised Modi for endorsing Trump for re-election and taking sides in the US domestic politics.

However, the recent open threat President Trump threw at India has exposed the dangerous side of New Delhi's



friendship with the US. India, the largest producer of hydroxychloroquine, initially banned exports of the drug on March 25 to ensure adequate domestic supplies. Rules were then tightened further with formulations made from hydroxychloroquine also barred for export.

This didn't go well with the US, and at a press conference, Trump explicitly threatened retaliation if the ban was not lifted, for the US. Within 24 hours, the ban was lifted much to a huge embarrassment for Modi—a move which also dented pride of India and deflated much touted Modi-Trump friendship.

While India celebrates its 'newfound friend' in the US, it does not realise the embedded threats this equation brings with it. With each passing day and as US ingresses in to Indian military with its hardware, the more it will start to impact and influence Indian foreign policy. The hydroxychloroquine saga was the first experience of India with US and, surely, there is a lot more to come. As Trump and Modi herald the downfall of the Indo-US partnership, Pakistan just enjoys from the sidelines. ■



Kamran Adil

# Civil Service in Pakistan

## Reforms vs. Regulation



**T**he incumbent government has introduced two major sets of rules in 2019 and 2020 that have far-reaching potential effects for civil service in Pakistan. These rules have redefined and expanded the promotion and attrition regimes of the civil service. A look at legal and constitutional framework related to civil service law shows that civil service is a constitutional product. Article 240 of the 1973 Constitution constitutes services (federal and provincial) and provides that the 'conditions of service' will be 'determined' by the federal and provincial legislatures. Unlike the 1956 and 1962 Constitutions, the 1973 Constitution does not provide for 'safeguards' or 'constitutional protections' with regard to 'due process' and insertion of 'adverse conditions' to extant terms and conditions. As obligated by Article 240, the federal and provincial legislatures enacted laws for federal and provincial civil services that contained their 'terms and conditions'. For federal civil servants, the Civil Servants Act, 1973, was enacted and it was equipped with a legal provision for delegated legislation; its Section 25 empowered the President to make rules to give necessary effect to the civil service law. It is in exercise of this power to make delegated rules that the two sets of rules relating to promotions and directory retirement have been issued, which will be discussed hereunder.

The first set of rules deals with promotion. As per the architecture of the civil service law, Section 9 provides for substantive law related to promotion of civil servants. It requires that civil servants possessing 'minimum qualification prescribed' for promotion be promoted. The 'prescription' was to be done by making rules; however, the rules were not made for a long period of time and the 'prescription' was carried out under executive authority by issuing policies and office memoranda.

The use of executive authority to 'prescribe' minimum qualifications for civil servants was challenged in courts, which consistently held that such 'prescription' under the civil service law was a legislative function and should have been done through making rules. Consequently, in 2019, after a period of forty-six years from the enactment of civil service law, the promotion rules were made. As noted above, the issuance of rules has rectified the legality problem of the promotion regime that was noted consistently by the courts in their *obiter dicta* while deciding on individual promotion cases of civil servants. The content problem of the promotion regime that required fairness, objectivity and structured discretion has yet to be fully addressed. In the interest of clarity and certainty, the rules clearly lay out procedural and administrative details about promotion regime. The rules, however, do not address the issue of 'objective material' on the basis of which promotions may be evaluated.

Within civil service, the definition of 'objectivity' is subject



to much debate; nevertheless, the rules offer a combination of objective and subjective criteria. The objective criteria include 30 percent weightage for training and 40 percent for performance evaluation reports. On the other hand, the 'objective assessment' with the weightage of 30 percent is to be carried out by the members of the Central Selection Board (CSB) or Departmental Promotion Committee (DPC). 'Objective assessment' by people who might not be knowing the assessed officer personally is a matter of concern for many a civil servant. Besides, streamlining the promotion regime, the rules contain standard legal caveats to address expediency that is to be dealt with by civil servants on daily basis.

The second set of rules is the Civil Servants (Directory Retirement from Service) Rules, 2020. The concept of directory retirement is not new and was very much part of the civil service law (Section 13), but had no elaborate legal arrangement. The directory retirement rules are being seen as a venture in attrition in civil service.

Amongst the most pervasive debates in civil service is that there is no process to deal with 'dead wood' who thrive on omission of duty and inefficiency. Unfortunately, the elimination or attrition has not been institutionalized in civil service. One of the most explicit tools in this regard should have been the disciplinary rules, which get neutralized on procedural and legal grounds as all disciplinary action under the law is justiciable.

Likewise, another tool is the performance evaluation, which has become mechanical and an exercise in personal relations. Fair performance evaluation can ensure that inefficient, corrupt and politically aligned civil servants face the consequences of their choices; this, however, has not happened. It is generally believed that the most effective check on conduct of public servants is internal control that gets reflected through fair performance evaluation and disciplinary action. Both the tools have been politicized, socialized and judicialized. In this context, the new regime of directory retirement has been brought in.

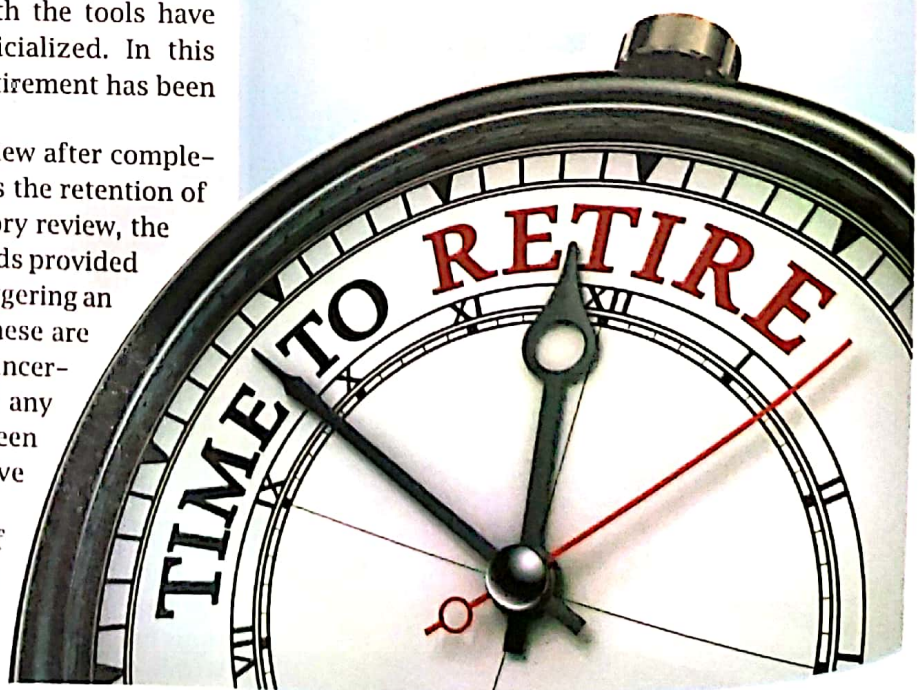
The Rules provide for a mandatory review after completion of twenty years of service to assess the retention of an officer in service. After the mandatory review, the process can be triggered on some grounds provided in the rules (Rule 5). The grounds for triggering an optional review are not trite; the way these are formulated may increase vagueness, uncertainty and discretion. The polestar of any attrition or elimination exercise has been the material on which the executive decisions rest.

In directory retirement, the problem of evidence and material of incriminating nature subsists as without cogent reasons backed by admissible

evidence, the likelihood is that the civil servants will be able to get relief from the courts and return to service after some time. A survey of the cases of returning officers in the past is telling in many ways. The returning officers have, more often than not, successfully claimed financial benefits of the period they spent out of service and have also quite deftly got their *inter-se* seniority restored, culminating into promotions with their peers. Earlier, Musharraf regime introduced a law called Removal from Service Ordinance, 2000, on the same premise, but in disciplinary domain. The law did not yield required results and the officers removed through it were able to return to service through litigation. In addition, there are laws like Sacked Employees (Reinstatement) Act, 2010, on the statue books to evince that there is little or no real will to deal with the issue.

Notwithstanding their limitations and potential to be politically utilized, the two sets of rules have added considerable meat to the already expanding body of rules of the civil service in Pakistan. The much required civil service reforms have become clichéd as the propensity is to regulate and control a civil servant rather than to reform him. Civil service reforms relating to tenure, protection, decent and equitable pay, career planning, placement, dignity and professionalism have not found much favour with the powers that be. For the sake of posterity, it must be realized that there is as good a case for reforming civil service as regulating it. The constitutional machinery is essentially civilian in nature and must be given an environment, which is less insecure and uncertain. □

*The author is an independent researcher and has done his BCL from the University of Oxford.  
Email: kamranadilp@gmail.com*







Before we dwell upon the impact of climate change on security, it seems pertinent to look at what national security is from

the perspective of International Relations.

Harold Brown, US Secretary of Defense from 1977 to 1981 in the Carter administration, describes national security as "the ability to preserve the nation's physical integrity and territory; to maintain its economic relations with the rest of the world on reasonable terms; to preserve its nature, institution and governance from disruption from outside; and to control its borders." Succinctly, national security is the protection of a state's sovereignty and territorial integrity, as well as institutional capacity of safeguarding its subjects from various military and non-military threats like military attacks; terrorism; crime control; economic, human, energy, food and cyber insecurity. Global security or international security is the mutual survival and safety of humans on the face of the Earth as a result of multilateral, bilateral or unilateral endeavours on the part of the United Nations and its

Throughout the eons, climate change has been an integral part of our atmospheric conditions, but the pace at which it affected our planet was slow and imperceptible, and it offered ample time for adaptation to the flora and fauna of the Earth. However, the current situation is altogether different. The rate of change in global atmosphere and ecology is so abrupt and sudden today that 7.6 billion humans, as well as all other species, find it harder to adapt to the precipitously changing weather patterns, increasingly erratic rainfall and unprecedentedly-rising global temperature. Though climate change is causing grim consequences for humanity, e.g. increasing temperatures, melting glaciers, desertification, weather change, disturbance in atmospheric circulation and ocean currents, rising sea level and seawater intrusion, its most serious impact that is still underreported, unnoticed and underestimated will be on global peace and security.

member states. Both international security and national security of climatically-vulnerable countries are facing serious challenges from the precipitous changes being brought about through anthropological activities.

Though the world is slow to recognize the grave risks associated with climate change, there is now a growing realization in major capitals and international organizations that this phenomenon can act as an accelerant to instability and a catalyst to conflagrate the conflicts. It attempts to compound the existing security and economic irritants and can potentially endanger the security of humans as well as that of ecosystems, societies, economies and governing institutions. In a study published in 2007, David D. Zhang et al. found that long-term fluctuation

of war frequency and population changes followed the cycles of temperature change. They also found that a cooler period impacted agriculture production that, in return, caused serious social issues like price inflation, war, famines and population decline. Moreover, in its Quadrennial Defense Review 2014, Pentagon concluded

Aftab H. Wahla



that the various impacts created by climate change are "threat multipliers" that will exacerbate stresses abroad like poverty, environmental degradation and political instability. "The pressures caused by climate change will influence resource competition while placing additional burdens on economies, societies and governance institutions around the world. These effects are threat multipliers that will aggravate stressors abroad such as poverty, environmental degradation, political instability, and social tensions—conditions that can enable terrorist activity and other forms of violence," it said. These assessments make it vividly clear that unaddressed climate change would create serious consequences and implications for global peace and security.

A brief discussion has been made in the following paragraphs on various factors linked with climate change that pose serious threats to international security.

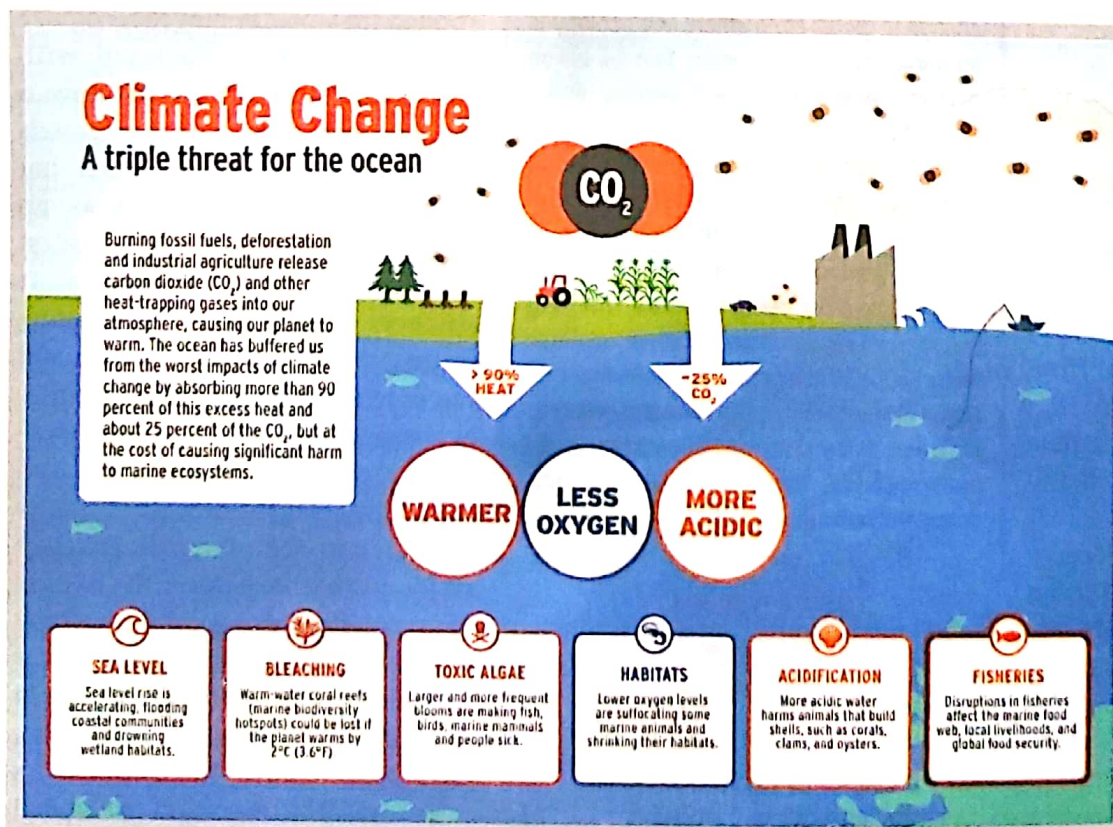
First of all, there is a well-established link between climate change and water insecurity. Rising temperatures, glacial meltdown and changing rainfall patterns will invariably impact water security across the globe. There is a strong likelihood that climate change-driven water insecurity will cause sub-national and transnational conflicts. These conflicts can further be compounded by pre-existing social issues like poverty, national disintegration, social tensions, etc. Globally, the Middle East, North Africa and South Asia are three regions that are hotspots for water insecurity-linked threats. The poor transnational coordination, dilapidated institutional arrangements, poor leadership and unplanned demand-and-supply mechanism are making these regions

extremely vulnerable to active hostilities and standoffs. The gravity of the situation can be gauged from the fact that out of seven river basins in these regions, five have been termed as awfully inadequate and limited to avoid and manage future crises. The Nile, Euphrates-Tigris and Indus Basin systems are worth mentioning here as they are facing serious issues due to climate change-driven fluctuations and uncertainties.

Weaponization of water is another closely linked issue. Various countries and terrorist outfits are using threats emanating from water insecurity as means to achieve their tactical, strategic and coercive ends. For instance, ISIS attempted to use water as strategic and tactical weapon when it threatened to destroy Mosul Dam to stop the advancement of Iraqi Army. India's Hindu nationalist prime minister, Narendra Modi, has frequently threatened to stop the flow of water of western rivers into Pakistan to prevent the so-called 'infiltration of militants' in Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. Al-Shabab, the terrorist organization in East Africa, cut off water supplies to some localities in Somalia to show its coercive power. Since water is integral for food and energy security, continued and unaddressed climate change-caused water scarcity poses grave threats to these regions which are already volatile and restive due to various politico-strategic conflicts.

The Northwest Passage is one such place that best illustrates how change in natural environment is inevitably linked with geostrategic competition. This passage can offer shorter Euro-Asia marine route but the deep ice has long prevented the exploitation of this passage as per

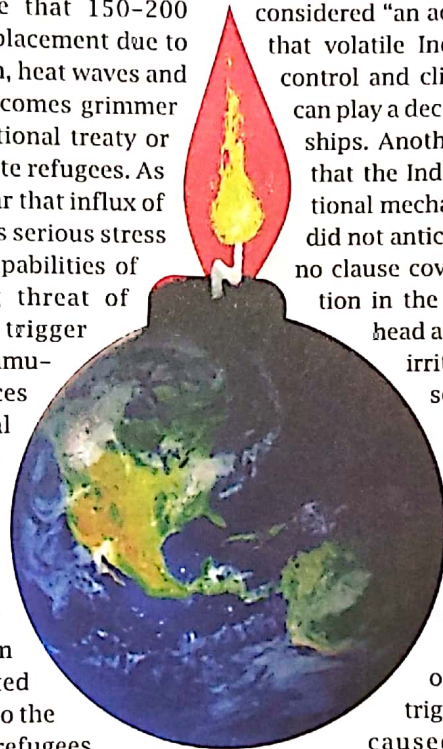
its true potential. Now climate change is impacting it. The average temperature has been hovering 1.35 degree Fahrenheit since the start of the 20th century. This mercurial rise is causing ice-meltdown at an unprecedented rate. As per various reports, the ice is melting at 13.5% per decade. In 2018, the minimum sea ice extent in the Arctic was 25% below the 30-year average from 1980 to 2010. This continued ice-melt in the Northwest Passage will open new maritime routes and trade opportunities. The US Geological Survey has estimated that 30% of





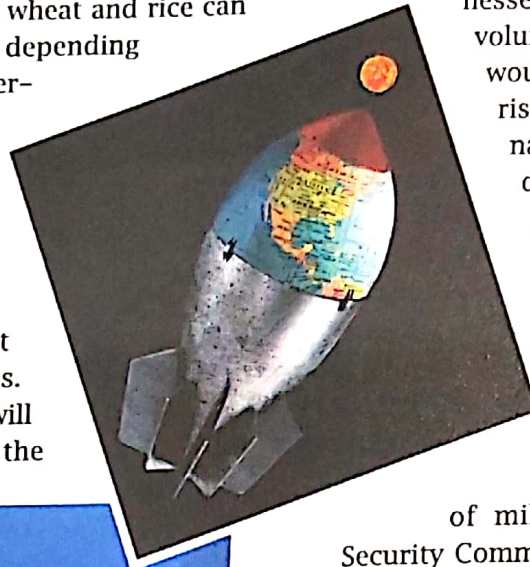
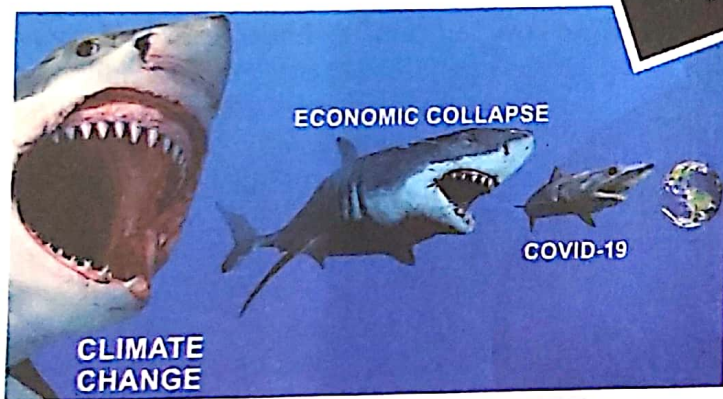
the world's undiscovered natural gas and 13% of undiscovered oil can possibly be located in Arctic Circle and Northern waters. The likelihood of untapped opportunities of oil, gas and mineral exploration in this region can cause disputes over territorial claims and sea route. The continued lingering of this dispute, coupled with other unresolved political conflicts, can act as an agent of destabilization and prove a serious threat to global peace and security. There are already indications that Russia is deploying its military assets here and the United States is contemplating counteraction. Obviously, this is worrisome development for international stability. Climate change-induced population displacement and climate refugees make another burning issue that is posing grave threats to international peace and security. Different climate scenarios estimate that 150-200 million people worldwide will face displacement due to rise in sea level, sea surge, sea intrusion, heat waves and prolonged droughts. This situation becomes grimmer when we find that there is no international treaty or convention covering the rights of climate refugees. As EU Refugee Crisis 2015 has made it clear that influx of a massive number of immigrants causes serious stress on the humanitarian and economic capabilities of destination countries, the looming threat of climate refugees has potential to trigger fractures among the international community. Competition over scarce resources would lead to social strife, political instability, civil war and armed conflicts among countries. The climate displacement is more serious in the sense that the displacement will likely be permanent as losses brought on by floods, sea intrusion, surge in heat waves and sea storms have long-term socioeconomic ramifications and affected population will never be able to return to the pre-disaster level. Therefore, climate refugees will continue to put a perpetual strain on the destination countries, thereby creating a constant source of conflict among the countries. Now we look at what climate change-induced security threats are evolving for Pakistan. It is worth discussing these threats as Pakistan's security policymakers have shown little realization to the security implications of climate change and have disproportionately mobilized state resources to neutralize the conventional threats to the country's national security. First and foremost, downstream status of Pakistan is a threat to its security. Pakistan's food and energy security is contingent on the uninterrupted and uninterruptible supply of water from upstream India. Both India and Pakistan are facing acute water shortage due to ineffective

agriculture practices, poor management of water resources and burgeoning populations. This regional water insecurity has further been compounded by the rise of Hindu-nationalist and fascist Narendra Modi to power in New Delhi. His populist approach towards Pakistan vis-à-vis downstream water of western rivers has become one of the most serious threats to national security of Pakistan. In the aftermath of the Uri attack back in 2016, Modi attempted to soothe the popular resentments against Pakistan and warned that blood and water cannot flow together, thereby threatening a closure of waters flowing downstream into Pakistan. On its part, Pakistan responded promptly with Sartaj Aziz, the then Foreign Policy Advisor to the PM, giving the policy statement that any violation of Indus Waters Treaty by India would be considered "an act of war". This episode makes it clear that volatile Indo-Pak ties can easily spiral out of control and climate change-driven water insecurity can play a decisive role in the derailment of relationships. Another worrisome aspect of this threat is that the Indus Waters Treaty of 1960, an institutional mechanism to amicably resolve the dispute, did not anticipate climate change at that time, ergo no clause covering climate change-caused disruption in the supply of water. This worsening per head availability, coupled with other bilateral irritants, has become one of the most serious threat multipliers for peace and security of South Asia. Prolonged droughts, super floods and famines can cause severe unrest. The situation gets worse in the presence of unresolved political issues. The 2003 Darfur Civil War in Sudan that resulted in more than 100,000 fatalities and displacement of over 300,000 people was in part triggered by prolonged drought that had caused fatal competition over scarce resources. Syria is another example where climate change-precipitated, historically-worst drought caused migration, civil unrest and ultimately armed conflict. Pakistan also sits on the time bomb of national disintegration due to various factors; water distribution being the most important of them. Population explosion, industrial development, unplanned urbanization, absence of horizontal and vertical collaboration, incoherent implementation of ecological policies, inability to construct any major water reservoir and ineffective supply and demand management have made Water Apportionment Accord of 1991 awfully obsolete and inadequate to resolve inter-provincial water disputes. In addition, the Accord does not include any water-distribution mechanism if there is any major disruption in





water availability owing to emergencies. It is now increasingly becoming evident that climate change is impacting the normal flow of water and inability of the 1991 Accord to proactively tackle this issue is bound to create serious politico-economic ramifications that will cause serious threat to the internal security of Pakistan. Population displacement is another issue that can easily create an insurmountable challenge for internal security of Pakistan. As per various climate models, the thermal threshold of major staple crops like wheat and rice can shift towards the northern areas depending upon the rise in temperature. If temperature rises by 3 to 4 degree Celsius by the end of the ongoing century, the entire lower Sindh may be left unsuitable for wheat cultivation. Obviously, the unsuitability of the lands for staple food would cause population displacement and migration to the urban centres. Thus, already overcrowded cities will find it even harder to cope with the



Given the gravity of the situation, drastic changes at global and national levels have become a pressing urgency. Globally, the very domain of the UN Security Council must be broadened. Article 39 of the UN Charter that deals with jurisdiction of UNSC to act in case of any threat to peace, breach of peace or act of aggression must also cover climate change-driven security threats, in addition to the conventional military aggressions. The diplomatic squabbling and bickering witnessed during COP25 has made it clear that voluntary international climate agreements would not help humanity contain mercurial rise; these agreements must be binding in nature and any breach should also be the domain of the International Court of Justice. In addition, the institutional jurisdiction of International Criminal Court should also be expanded to include climate aggression along with ethnic cleansing, genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes. Nationally, a paradigm shift is required in strategic thinking of military establishment. The National

Security Committee must also consider the security implications of climate change in its policymaking and execution and our military top brass should also deliberate it in its Corps Commanders Meetings to devise coordinated civil-military response to this security threat.

The traditional understanding of national and global security has undergone fundamental transformation. The narrow definition of protecting sovereignty and territorial integrity has become obsolete owing to emergence of a lot of non-conventional security threats that, if left unaddressed and unresolved, can prove as devastating as military aggression or terrorism. Now it has become amply evident that management of national security is no longer the exclusive domain of military or other law-enforcement agencies; it warrants a multidisciplinary, holistic approach to remove the proverbial sword of Damocles in order to give a healthy, hospitable, peaceful and secure environment with fully functional state institutions to the next generations. One of the major takeaways of Covid-19 is that we cannot defeat nature; if we go on with our ecologically disturbing activities, nature has deadliest weapons in its arsenal to teach us a lesson. We must learn the art of peaceful coexistence with the nature, which is strict adherence to climate-friendly socio-economic policies and activities. ■

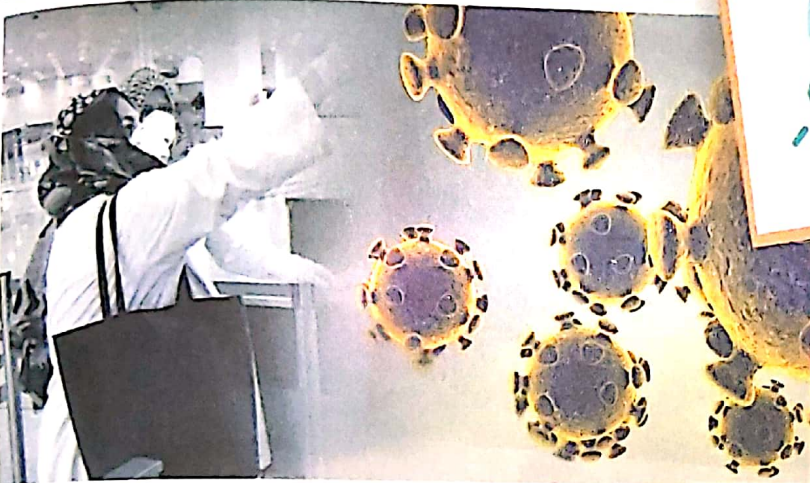
challenges of ethnic tensions, ghettoization of communities, crime infestation and political instability. Climate change-driven water shortage would further worsen the situation and there will always be serious threats of outbreak of gang wars and civil strife in the major urban centres of Pakistan, thereby putting internal security under great stress.

The ongoing crisis of locust infestation is another example that illustrates the capability of climate change to disrupt the food supplies. The increased frequency of cyclones in Indian Ocean—eight cyclones in 2019 alone—and longer-than-normal monsoon last year helped the three generations of locusts in Pakistan and Iran. Now this threat is set to devastate the Kharif and Rabi crops of Pakistan. Losses to agriculture could reach Rs. 353 billion for Rabi crops and Rs.464 billions for Kharif crops. Most worryingly, the locust crisis is set to further cripple the surveillance and control response of the government that is already fighting the once-in-a-century medico-economic crisis of Covid-19.

*The writer is a graduate of the University of Agriculture, Faisalabad. He writes on national and international affairs.*



## NATIONAL



## Evidence for Health Policy Design

Asad Ejaz Butt and Izza Gayyum



The Prime Minister of Pakistan, while speaking at the Ehsaas Telethon which was launched for Corona Relief Fund, raved about the diligence of his health advisers, Dr Zafar Mirza and Dr Faisal Sultan. Each morning, he said, his advisers analyze health data to staunchly prepare for the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) meetings. Their analysis is instrumental in determining the direction the government takes to allay economic risks associated with a total lockdown. Health numbers that originate from different data streams across the country enable public health practitioners to apprise the NCOC of the repercussions of easing the lockdown all too quickly. Since data has not been a thing of the Pakistani policymakers, it is quite satisfying to learn that policies that decide the fate of more than 200 million people are not made anymore on whims, predilections and opinions of those at the helm. They are perhaps informed by a systematic process of research and inquiry which is aided by data and technology. But since the complexity of the situation demands greater precision of analysis, the success of the government policies and the results they achieve depends ever so greatly on the veracity and completeness of the data. As they say 'half-truth is a great lie', the incompleteness and unsophistication of data that informs policy in a situation of such uncertainty is only going to make things worse. Experts say that the pandemic will soon hit its peak and the worst times are yet to

come. If, however, the government's data and its proprietary models fail, what we know of the worst will turn out to be only an underestimation.

A piece recently published in the Dawn newspaper described the scenes in the NCOC meetings which lead one to imagine how perfectly the data and technology software, powered by the ISI, to track terrorists is now assisting the government track the virus-carriers. If such is the sophistication of data used by the government, some reporting on a few hidden aspects of the virus would have made the situation slightly less precarious than what it is right now. By April 25th, when I write this piece, we should have been certain about whether the economy should be locked down completely or smartly—as the government calls it—and closing which sector would entail what quantum of losses to the economy. Clearly, we don't know where we stand today, what we're going to do in the weeks to come and where would our economy be by the end of May, when the number of cases has been predicted to rise up to 50,000 by some health models. These questions are derivatives of some larger questions that shall draw the attention of decision-makers toward data points that they should have looked at before deciding in favour of a certain variant of a lockdown (total, partial or smart). I would use this space to pose some of the larger questions one by one.

What is the total number of daily wagers in Pakistan? Labour Force Survey (LFS), the flagship data product of the



government that reports employment and labour market data, does not tell us the number of daily wagers that were working before the crisis hit in February. No such estimates emerged during the crisis and the fact that no functionary of the government or any reporting agency has reported the number leads me to believe that the government does not have the number even today. The wedge between locking down completely, as is the case

pleaded by the Sindh government, against a partial lockdown proposed by the Prime Minister has been drawn at the question of whether a stunted economy would be able to provide for the millions of daily wagers in the country. Yes, we know the number is in the count of millions which probably led the government to profile 12 million families for the first phase of the Ehsaas Kifalat programme. But, clearly, no one knows if the actual number of daily wagers is greater than 12 million or not, and if the NCOC does, there is no estimate of how many of those work in what sector and what industry; how many of the daily wagers rendered jobless have an alternate source of income



exact number of people who have lost their jobs purely to the crisis and in the aftermath of the lockdown. How can benefits be fairly distributed without having this kind of information? If this data is available, why has no source reported it? Why is no government organization talking about the number of unemployed persons? Unemployment is the most striking impact of the lockdown. The

Prime Minister keeps telling the public that there is a tradeoff between saving people from the virus and letting them die of hunger or opening the economy systematically so as to contain the virus while also letting some sectors of the economy operate. How can the decision to facilitate the trade be taken without knowing the number

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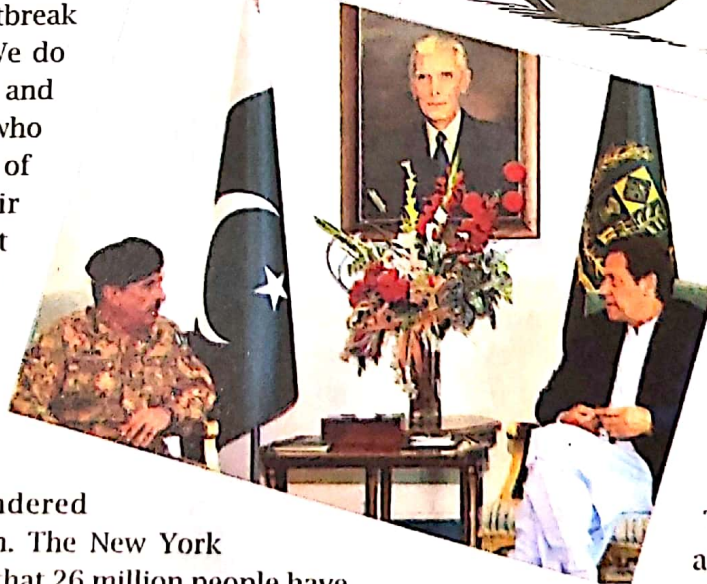
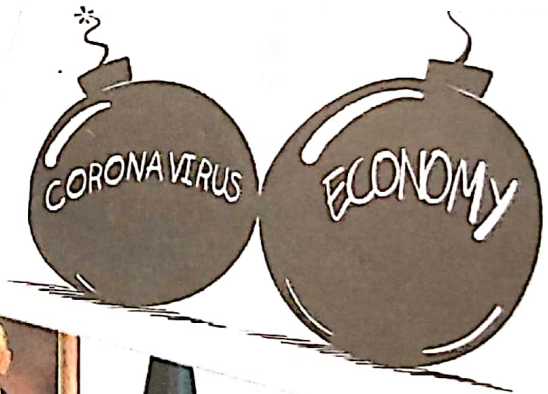
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GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

DAILY MCQS



of people who have lost their jobs while also having the numeric luxury of separating the unemployed between those who were daily wagers and who were not?

The government has decided to allocate some resources to the construction industry. It assumes opening that industry would not

impact the spread of the virus since its dynamics make it naturally poised for social distancing while it would have a larger impact on pushing economic growth than some other sectors like the services industry. It has also announced that the status of an 'industry' would be accorded to the construction sector which will make it

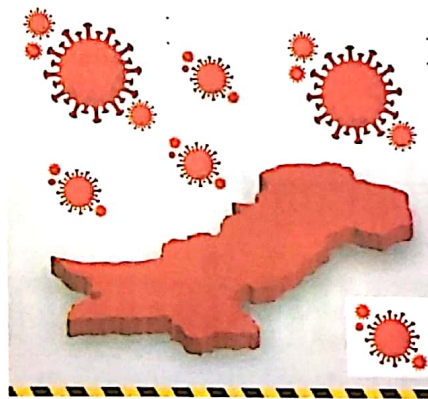
unemployed by the lockdown. The New York Times reported on April 24th that 26 million people have filed for unemployment claims—a social safety net provided by the government to those who lose their jobs due to the various types of unemployment—structural, functional, etc. How many people have become unemployed since the outbreak in Pakistan? Does the government have this data with precision? This is extremely critical because rehabilitation programmes for the unemployed cannot be designed without knowing the



## NATIONAL

eligible for some rebates and relaxations while a stimulus package may also be announced for the sector. Should the decision to open a sector be taken without knowing the number of SME and small businesses that operate and in which sector/industry? Daily wagers and low-income households must be protected. The economy also needs to keep functioning in a way that its progress does not ignite the spread of the virus. But there has to be a rationale behind the decisions that the government makes and the best way to justify what it does is to obtain the support of numbers which it, clearly, isn't doing too well.

The best way to keep the economy moving is to ensure that people who can afford to buy food to eat, daily wagers and unemployed persons who cannot afford to buy (if their numbers are known) are monetarily reimbursed by the state for incomes lost to the lockdown and lastly, that the small businesses in industries where social distancing is a norm otherwise too, continue to operate. Their balance sheets do not paint the sorry figure that they currently do. Akin to people having lost their jobs, which is information that the government does not possess with a lot of certainty. Do we know the number of businesses that have closed down ever since the outbreak? I didn't know what data is flashing on the fancy screens at the NCOC but if policies have to be made devoid of evidence, they would be as whimsical as they currently are in Pakistan. The lack of consensus on the lockdown is not because of political differences, it is either because of the governments at the centre or in the provinces not knowing what is the right approach. The consensus which Sakib Sherani calls the 'whole of Government' approach is not developing because there is no data to support whether a total lockdown should prevail over a partial one and what are the economic impacts of each.



If the Prime Minister could, with the aid of sophisticated data, explain to CM Sindh Syed Murad Ali Shah how many people have already lost jobs in Sindh and in what sector, and how many businesses have closed down ever since the pandemic, his job of spearheading policy and convincing his colleagues in the provinces would have been much easier.

Those economic impacts that are hidden because the government hasn't invested in data—and this is where the disadvantages of being a Third World country extremely 'data-poor' kick-in—would have made the decision to implement a certain variant of the lockdown with full force and with utmost certainty possible without having any divergences from anywhere across the country. As we see it, the tradeoff that the government keeps repeating is not between people losing lives and economic meltdown but between an indeterminable number of lives lost to the pandemic and an indeterminable loss to the economy. So much has been said and written on these pages about Corona. Some of that has included data on the number of cases and the lives lost but unless sophisticated economic data that can inform policy is available, the government alongside its institutions like the NCOC would remain lost between

searching for a safe haven between the divergent options available to tackle the virus. Corona is complex and so have to be ways, methods and tools that deal with it. Mediocracy and simplicity cannot easily deal with it. Apocalypse may not be caused by man's increasing quest for technology but by man's ignorance of the best ways technology could be deployed. ■

*Asad Ejaz Butt is an economist and former director of the Burki Institute of Public Policy (BIPP). He can be emailed @ asad.ejazb@gmail.com  
Izza Qayyum has a degree in Economics from LUMS and currently works as a marketing professional.*



**R**eports are abuzz in Pakistan's mainstream media that the federal government wants to revisit the 18th Amendment and fill the gaps therein. What has been a source of concern to the centre is the Seventh National Finance Commission (NFC) Award under which the share of provinces in the divisible pool of taxes was raised from 46.5 percent to 57.5 percent from 2011-12 onwards, with a commensurate decline in the centre's share from 53.5 percent to 42.5 percent. Under the 7th NFC Award, the four provinces are collectively entitled to 57.5 percent of divisible pool of taxes, besides the revenue from income tax, wealth tax, capital value tax, general sales tax, customs duties and federal excise duty. The provincial governments get their horizontal shares on the basis of population, poverty, revenue collection and inverse population density, allowing Punjab to get 51.74 percent, Sindh 24.55 percent, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa 14.62 percent and Balochistan 9.09 percent as their share.

In order to ensure that the share of provinces in the divisible pool would not be rolled back in times to come, the government inserted Article 160 (3A) in the Eighteenth Amendment which stipulates that "[t]he share of provinces in each award of NFC shall not be less than the share given to the provinces in the previous award." And here is the crux of the problem: the centre is unable to fund its expenses from the remaining resources available from the divisible pool. Take last fiscal year (2018-19) as an example. The revised estimates for the year showed FBR tax collections of 4.150 trillion rupees with the provincial share at 2.37 trillion rupees and the federal share as low as 1.78 trillion rupees. This amount could not fund the combined allocation (revised estimates) on defence 1.13 trillion rupees and debt servicing 1.98 trillion rupees with a combined allocation of 3.28 trillion rupees. The federal government's revenue from other taxes (including petroleum levy, gas infrastructure development cess and natural gas development surcharge) was 243.8

## Revisiting the 18th Amendment

Is 7th NFC Award the bone of contention?



After the outbreak of coronavirus pandemic in Pakistan there has been a lot of debate on the 18th Amendment to the Constitution of Pakistan. Some federal ministers like Shibli Faraz and Asad Umar flared up the debate by hinting that the government wants to change the 18th Amendment. For instance, Federal Minister for Planning and Development Asad Umar, opines that the amendment has some flaws which must be removed especially a flaw pertaining to administrative matters between the federal and provincial governments needs a serious review of the amendment. On the other hand, Federal Information Minister Senator Shibli Faraz has termed it 'a hurdle in preparing a uniform policy to fight the coronavirus across the country' as after the amendment the federal government's role in various spheres had been limited to issuing policy guidelines. He however, said the government would adopt rational approach for resolving all the issues including NFC and the 18th Amendment.



## The 10th National Finance Commission

On May 12th, the government, after approval of its terms of reference from President Dr Arif Alvi as required under Article 160 (1) of the Constitution, constituted the 10th National Finance Commission (NFC) to announce a new award for sharing of federal divisible resources between the Centre and the provinces. It is an 11-member commission that will, however, effectively comprise 10 members given the president has also authorised the Adviser to the Prime Minister on Finance and Revenue to chair meetings of the NFC in the absence of the federal ministers and four non-statutory members representing the provinces and the federal finance secretary as official expert.

The ToRs set under clause 2 of Article 160 require the 10th NFC to distribute between the Centre and the provinces the net proceeds of five major tax categories, besides looking into expenditure requirements for special areas and special needs of the country. These include taxes on income, including corporation tax but not taxes on income consisting of remuneration paid out of the Federal Consolidated Fund. Also included in the list are taxes on sale and purchase of goods imported, exported, produced, manufactured or consumed and export duties on cotton, and such other export duties as may be specified by the president. It also includes excise duties and any other taxes as may be specified by the president.

For the first time, a new subject has been added to the list of discussions

suggesting that the Centre wants the provinces to bear some additional fiscal responsibilities. This pertains to "exploring ways to reduce losses of state-owned enterprises and agreeing on mechanism for sharing these losses between the federal government and the provincial governments".

The NFC will also be required to make grants-in-aid by the federal government to the provincial governments and set powers and conditions for the federal and provincial governments for borrowing, besides assessing and allocating resources to meet expenditures relating to Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Gilgit-Baltistan and newly-merged districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (erstwhile Fata).

Two terms of reference not part of previous NFCs include: (i) assessment and allocation of resources to meet expenditures on security, natural disasters and calamities; and (ii) assessment of public debt and allocation of resources for its payment.

The parameters of the next NFC award are expected to change for various provinces, particularly after addition of about five million people from the tribal region to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. This requires a meeting of the Council of Common Interests to endorse census results, notwithstanding objections, because a massive exercise of census could neither be repeated nor ignored.

billion rupees last year and 637.7 billion rupees from non-tax revenue (revised estimates) giving a combined total of 881.5 billion rupees. Thus the federal government's combined total tax and non-tax revenue (revised estimates) for last year was 2.66 trillion rupees giving a shortfall of 0.62 billion rupees with respect to meeting just the two largest budgetary items.

However, if the centre's share was 53.5 percent of the divisible pool taxes as in the pre-18th Amendment period, its share last year would have been 2.2 trillion rupees, still not sufficient to meet the combined allocation on defence and debt servicing.

If one adds other taxes and non-tax revenue, the total would still be lower than the combined allocation for defence and debt servicing though, of course, the shortfall would lower which, in turn, implies that a constitutional amendment would not obviate the need to reduce expenditure and raise revenue. And this is precisely what donors maintain, including development finance institutions (DFIs).

Both the 18th Amendment and the 7th NFC Award, thus, fundamentally restructured how Pakistan is governed—a change that has also generated a deep divide between the proponents of a strong Centre and those of a genuinely devolved federal system. This divide has widened over the last ten years and has been especially intense over the fiscal implications of the 18th Amendment. The critics of the amendment contend that it is having a negative effect on the fiscal stability of Pakistan.



Below is a brief description of its major fiscal implications. Firstly, the provinces have been authorised to generate additional revenue through sales tax on services, capital gains tax on properties and income tax on agriculture (which, indeed, has their mandate since 2001).

Secondly, the provinces were assured through the insertion of Clause 3(A) in Article 160 of the constitution that their share in any future NFC Award shall not be less than the share given to them in the previous Award.

Thirdly, they were given an enhanced say, through the Council of Common Interests (CCI), in formulating and regulating policies related to major ports, water reservoirs, electricity, public debt, national census, industries and production among many other similarly common subjects. The Council was to have a permanent secretariat and was supposed to meet at least once every 90 days to build consensus on all divisive issues—including a lockdown over Covid-19.

Lastly, the provinces were given greater access to domestic and/or foreign borrowing.

In an ideal situation, these provisions would have helped the provinces develop large, progressive and buoyant tax bases to be able to take care of their added administrative responsibilities under the amendment. They were also supposed to have distributed financial resources among their districts through provincial finance commissions—and under the same criteria that is being used by the National Finance Commission. In the same



vein, the federal and provincial governments would have jointly worked to expand the tax base and increase the tax to GDP ratio.

In order to ensure that the federal government could live within its reduced financial resources under the revised NFC formula, it was supposed to have only less than a dozen ministries and divisions.

We, however, are not living in an ideal world. Provincial revenue authorities set up in Punjab and Sindh did make an impressive start but could not sustain their performance. In the words of the State Bank of Pakistan, as stated in its Annual Report for 2018-19, the lack of institutional capacity among provinces has given "rise to lower revenue collection, less tax-to-GDP ratio and poor fiscal consolidation efforts". The provinces are also not willing to share their revenues with districts. At the level of the central government, too, the number of federal departments has not gone down as it should have. Instead, federal expenses have increased. The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) could also neither expand the tax base nor increase the tax-to-GDP ratio.

Resultantly, the federal government is barely left with funds to pay for its two non-discretionary expenses—debt-servicing and defence. Rest, it had to borrow to finance even its administrative and development expenditures. In the current fiscal year, it does not have sufficient funds to service its debt — for which it will have to borrow even more. The provinces, especially Sindh, are simultaneously complaining that they are not receiving their due share from the federal divisible pool.

All these monetary and fiscal issues aside, the federal and provincial governments have failed to utilise the CCI and other such forums for inter-provincial coordination. As is obvious from the different approaches being taken in different parts of the country over a lockdown to avoid the spread of coronavirus, these institutional arrangements have been rendered irrelevant in clear violation of Article 154 of the constitution which states: "The Council shall formulate and regulate policies in relation to matters in

part II of the Federal Legislative List and shall exercise supervision and control over related institutions."

This is not to say that the current governments in the Centre as well as in the provinces are exclusively to be blamed for this state of affairs. If one looks back at the three democratically elected dispensations over the last ten years, one can say that both the provincial and the federal parts of them implemented the provisions of the 18th Amendment only selectively; solely on the



convenient basis of what suited their political and partisan interests. This explains why expert opinion for or against the amendment remains deeply divided.

This division, however, should not be used as an excuse by the federal authorities to roll back the 18th Amendment unilaterally. Without first letting the full benefits of a fiscal and administrative devolution reach the provincial and district levels and then conducting an evidence-based assessment of service delivery before and after the 18th Amendment, no conclusion should be reached about its future. Such a step will only create further divisions and conflicts in the federation, particularly if it is taken without a thorough understanding of the actors and factors involved. ■

*The writer is an advocate High Court.*

### What is NFC Award?

Pakistan is a federation and has four federating units, i.e. Sindh, Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and Balochistan, as well as other territories including Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir which come under the federal government directly. The NFC award is meant to distribute financial resources between the federal government (vertical distribution), and the provinces (horizontal distribution).

After the promulgation of the Government of India Act, 1935 which introduced provincial autonomy in colonial India, then British government announced the first award called Niemeyer Award in 1936.

The Raisman Programme formerly known as the Raisman Award was the succession of the ongoing programme of economic reforms in Pakistan announced by Prime Minister Liaquat Ali Khan. The then Secretary Finance, Sir Jeremy Raisman, was appointed to prepare the mechanism for the distribution of tax revenues. Later, the award was

renamed as the National Finance Commission.

The NFC award includes the distribution of taxes collected by the federal government which form a divisible pool. This pool includes taxes on income including corporate tax, sales tax and export duties, etc.

Pakistan has historically been a highly centralised federation, and the federal government has massive powers to collect tax revenue, which are then distributed among the provinces. It determines the tax base: who should be taxed, the percentage of tax as well as the tax collection mechanism.

According to Article 160 of the Constitution, after every five years the president will constitute the NFC for a period of five years.

Once there is a consensus of all stakeholders on a particular formula to distribute the finances, the award will be implemented for the next five years.



1. The coronavirus pandemic will out of necessity give rise to a new world order based on the review of policies and strategies, and reorientation of survival concepts and doctrines. Pakistan cannot afford to remain oblivious to this transformation, and will have to align itself with the altering world and swiftly change the business-as-usual model to business for the future.
2. Covid-19 is a non-state actor. Irrespective of its origins, whether man-made or natural, we can expect recurring episodes in the future. Hence, Pakistan needs to learn from the experiences of other nations and formulate strategies according to its own environment and resources.
3. Healthcare, cure and preservation of human life should be prioritized as part of new health strategies with intensive budgetary allocations. Apart from healthcare facilities, research centres, indigenization of medicines and electro-medical equipment, along with naturalization of medical facilities should be the strategic undertakings of any new health framework. This is currently the top priority of countries across the world and Pakistan should be no different.
4. Pakistan must be well-equipped to detect and stop such threats in their infancy. For this purpose, the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) should be made more potent and broad-based.
5. Large administrative units such as provinces are not very viable, active or responsive in dealing with such crises. Hence, smaller units or administrative pockets with practical and a targeted approach must be preferred.
6. There should be a blend of technocrats, experts, politicians and bureaucrats to manage the situation so that a single decision-making body does not prevail during such crises.
7. On the tactical side, demographic surveys should be conducted to determine strategies for the social sector, urban and rural planning, administrative arrangements and crisis management at both micro and macro levels.
8. Threat profiling should be conducted to devise strategies and targeted approach for disaster management and resource allocation.
9. The industrial base should be reoriented so that the industries could be adaptable and serve dual or triple purposes. This would entail making it technically viable to switch their output from one production to another according to the need of the time such as the current pandemic.
10. Making use of barren lands and deserts for agriculture and the agro-based industry should be expanded for food security processing and preservation.
11. Pakistan's orientation should now move towards a welfare instead of a security state. This is because the facets of war have changed a lot in the form of cyber, hybrid and propaganda wars.
12. Security dynamics are changing from the physical and ideological to the subtler,

soft and porous frontiers of hybrid, microbiological and human chain reactions. It would be a folly if the country does not prepare for attacks from this dimension.

13. Unless there is threat perception, the government will not be able to create proper response potential and gain the required tools to neutralize such threats. At the same time, the country has to evolve strategies so that it would have policy options when faced with such threats.

14. Future strategies and doctrines will be reshaped to fight short, intense and multi-directional limited wars for which smart, agile and small armies would be required. These will not require huge logistics stamina and so defence spending will automatically be reduced.

15. Pakistan's strategic direction should be of unconventional deterrence for war avoidance. This deterrence should be forward poised and should be anchored in positioning obstacles along the borders, especially with India, rather than men and tools of war. This will also force India to hike its military spending to counter the obstacle-based and multiple defensive lines.

16. Incorporating a high-tech, agile and small standing army with skill-based reserves for fighting calamities such as coronavirus is the need of the hour.

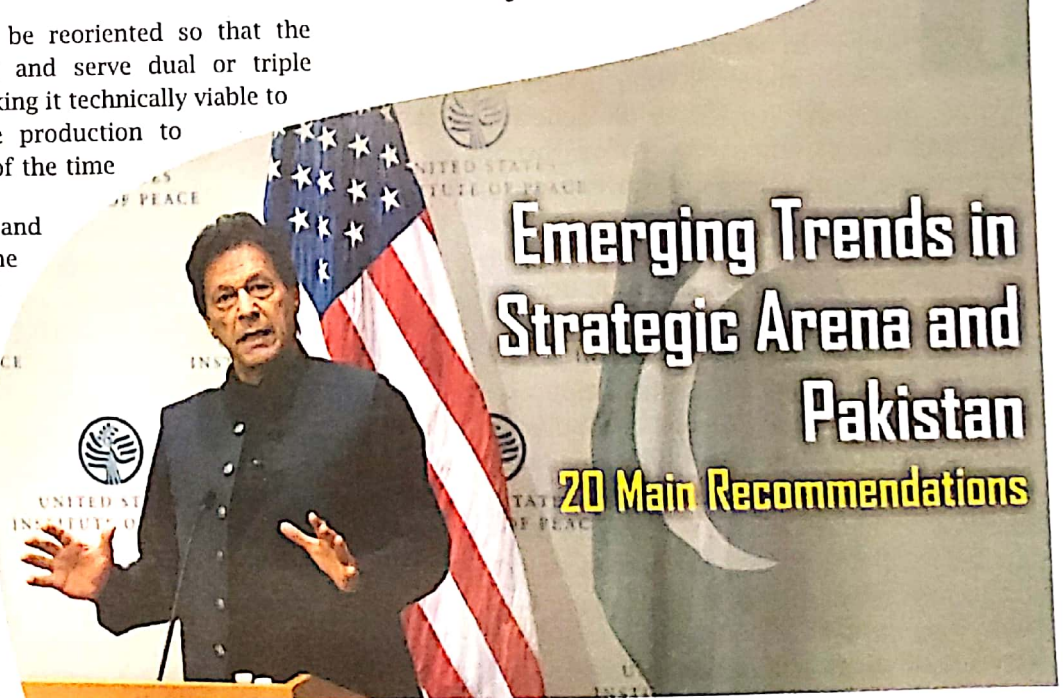
17. A global regime under UN auspices should be set up so that countries could jointly counter the pandemic in an effective and forceful manner.

18. The country which invests more in research, protective measures, human tools and expertise against coronavirus will be able to survive in any future crisis.

19. Pakistan should develop a proper narrative to highlight the lockdown in Kashmir and show its various facets to the world.

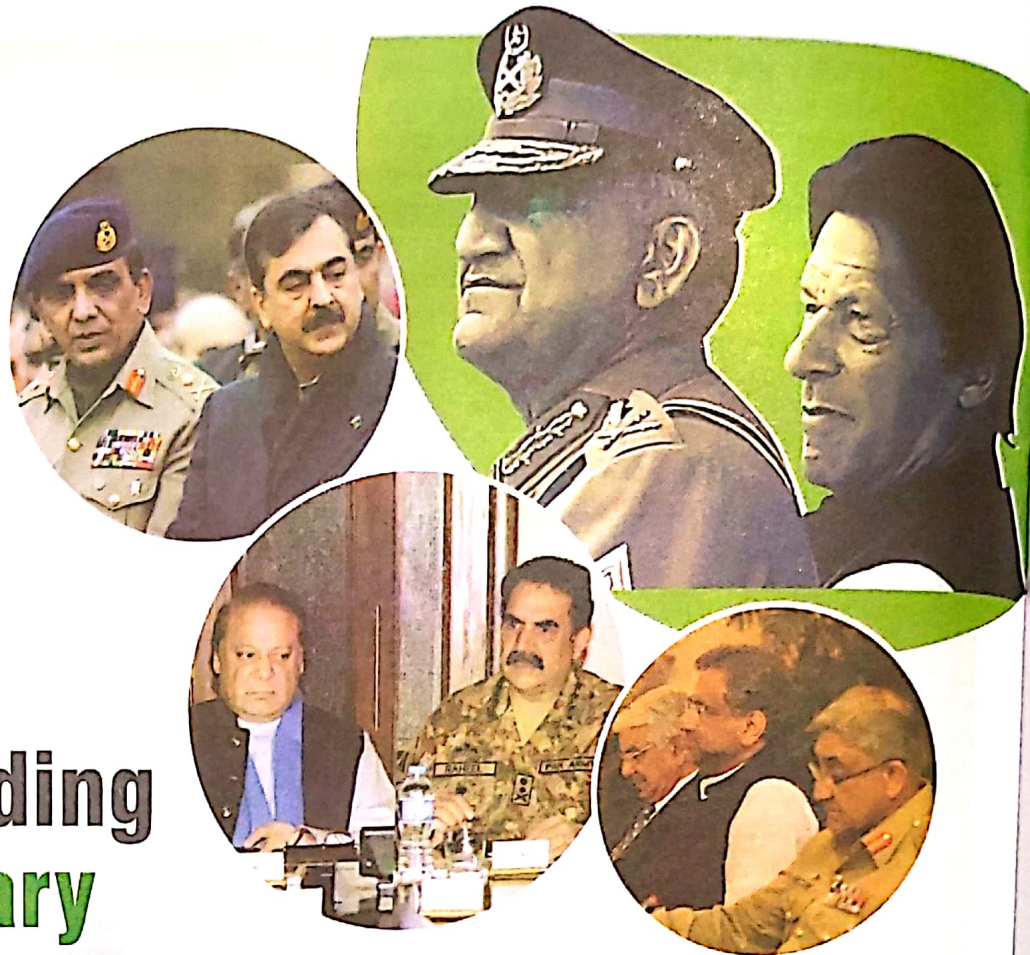
20. India might engage in some misadventure because a limited war is an option for that country. Pakistan must be ready to counter that.

*This piece is based on a lecture delivered by Security analyst Brigadier (retd) Said Nazeer Mohmand during an IPS webinar on 'Emerging Trends in Strategic Arena and Pakistan'.*





In terms of consecutive duration of civilian governments in Pakistan's history, this year marks the thirteenth year of uninterrupted civilian rule. In the past, we have not seen such bonhomie and convergence between civil and military leadership—ranging from foreign policy to domestic politics and even economic policy. If we talk about minus-military policies in Pakistan, it may be a misleading thinking as the theories of civil-military relations do not support this view—except that of Huntington's view of "objective civilian control," that is, at least not possible, in developing world.



# Understanding Civil-Military Relations

## A theoretical analysis

**P** rime Minister Imran Khan has excellent working relationship with the military. Last year, he granted a three-year extension to the Chief of Army Staff, General Qamar Javed Bajwa. In return, he agreed to freeze the military budget, keeping in view the daunting economic challenges the country was faced

with. Such moves, where the civilian government also receives some favours, are right, otherwise not.

The recent appointment of Lt. Gen (Retd) Asim Saleem Bajwa as Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Information is being criticized by many inside and outside Pakistan: some consider it interference in civilian affairs while others call it PMIK's tilt towards the military. First, we must look at this decision in the theoretical lenses of civil-military relations subject. Second, if the decision is in the best interest of the state, constitutional and such practices exist in other democracies as well, it is understandable. The real question in Pakistan is how both civilian leadership and military authority can coexist, which has never been seen on a smooth track throughout our history.

The leading theorists of civil-military relations, Professor Samuel P. Huntington in his book "Soldier and the State:

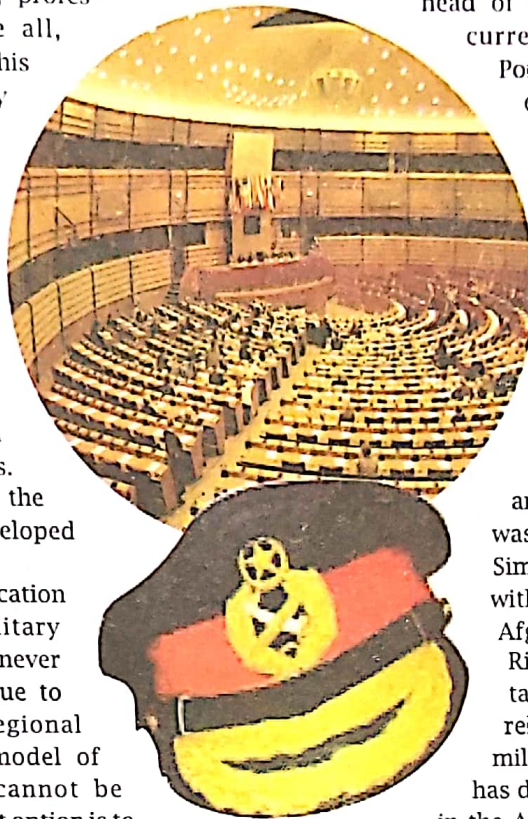
The Theory and Politics of Civil-Military Relations," and Morris Janowitz in "The Professional Soldier: A Social and Political Portrait" agree that the worlds of military and civilians are fundamentally different from each other. Both political scientists have discussed the friendly coexistence of civil-military leadership from their respective viewpoints. Huntington believes there is a sharp contrast between attitudes and values of both segments of the state. The military holds conservative thinking, while civilians, on the other hand, remain liberal. Besides, each of them has a separate world consisted of separate institutions with their operatives, rules and norms. He suggests that to maintain control, the civilian authority should not infringe on the internal autonomous character of the military. The civilian authority should determine such control which must be institutional and lawful, and not for seeking any political advantages. Professor Janowitz agrees with the above thesis but indicates a theory of convergence. He argues that the civil authority, understanding the need for a strong military, must try to get institutionally closer to each other through better understanding and arrangements. Huntington, by furthering the concept, presents two

Zafar Iqbal Yousafzai



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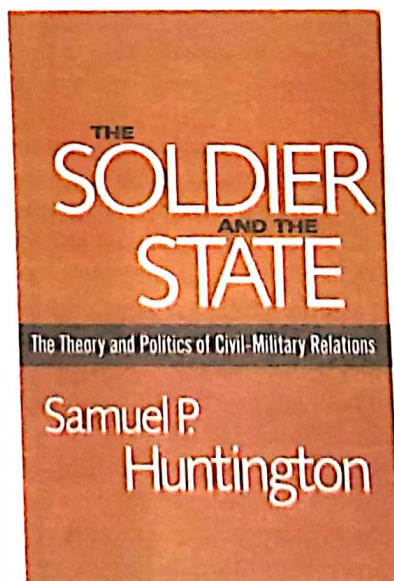
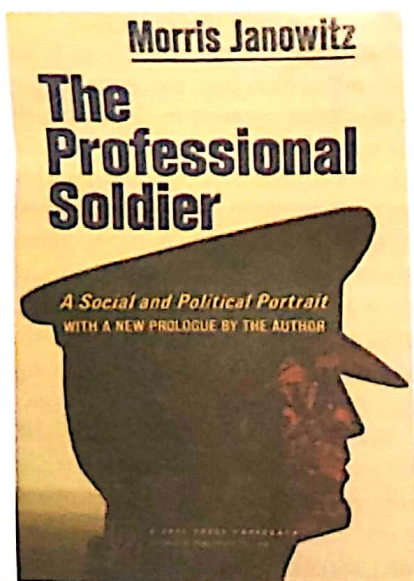
models for civil-military relations: 'objective civilian control' and 'subjective civilian control.' An 'objective civilian control', according to Huntington, relies on an autonomous nature, expertise, professional competence and, above all, political neutrality of the military. This model presents civilian authority supreme and military as a tool for the implementation of policies planned and directed by the political leadership. On the contrary, the 'subjective civilian control' provides the military with an independent role in setting national priorities. The military, like the other groups, strives for maximum influence in the formulation of national policies. Huntington's objective control is the ideal one; however, in the developed world it is impossible to exist. Janowitz argues that clear demarcation between the civilian and military authority is not possible and can never exist in developing countries due to their history, culture and regional characteristics. Besides, the model of 'objective civilian control' cannot be adopted in its real sense. The best option is to operate peacefully as two arms of the same body. However, unfortunately, I am doubtful, as many, including our most politicians, know theories of civil-military relations. For them, it is implausible because the two institutions can be compatible and operative in coordination as well.



Furthermore, Janowitz suggests three ways by which civilian leadership can control military: via the budget, via allocation of roles and missions and advice to the head of the state on foreign policy. The current US Secretary of State, Mike Pompeo, a former military officer and ex-Director of the CIA is the best example of playing such a role. Many other examples can be referred to in the US government that portray how the military has influenced the government and interfered in civilian affairs, or how it plays a role inside the governmental machinery. Bob Woodward, in his book, "Obama's Wars," for example, discusses the 2009 tension between the Pentagon and the White House where the former was looking for a different approach. Similarly, Gen McCrystal's differences with President Obama on troops level in Afghanistan is also a piece of evidence. Richard Kohn, a well-known commentator on contemporary civil-military relations, observes: "The professional military, with its allies and communities, has developed into a potent political force in the American government. Knowledgeable people, particularly those who, in each administration, are charged with the direction of national security affairs, recognize this, even if they cannot, for political reasons, admit it openly."

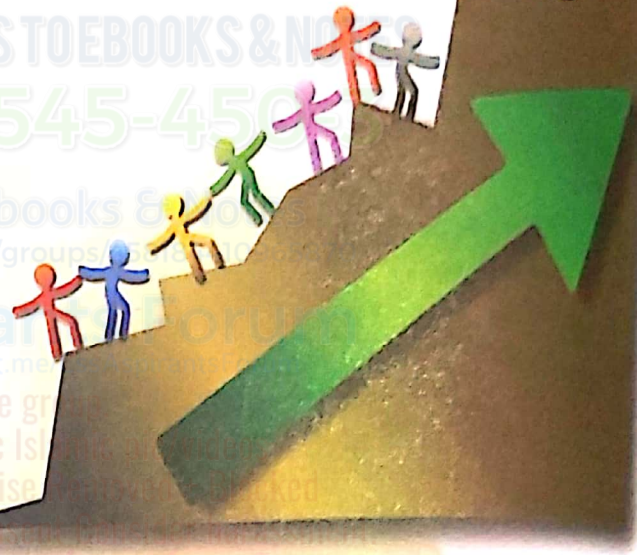
All these theories and pieces of evidence, although provide a basis for civil-military relations, suggest a mechanism of coordination and cooperation between these two organs of the state. A complete detachment is not possible, especially in the developing world. All those who comment on this difficult-to-understand relationship must know the basics of the subject matter. The issues we have experienced in the past were those of military coups, not influence. If better coordination can save democracy from the danger of military coup and work for the betterment of the state, that is always a viable and better option. ■

Zafar Iqbal Yousafzai is an independent researcher and columnist. He tweets @yousafzaiZafar5





# The Future of Uncontrollable Population in Pakistan



Maryam Ibrahim

One of the most dangerous, yet less discussed, problems in Pakistan is overpopulation. From the provision of essential nutritious food to eat, and clean water to drink, to the providence of proper healthcare facilities and education and then from tackling unemployment to the urgency of raising the general standards of living, the failure to control population growth has far-reaching, devastating effects. The constantly increasing population is a burden not only on the land but also on the climate. Exacerbating all types of pollution and destroying all forms of natural habitats, it is actually like setting on fire all the available resources. Bernard Sanders, a popular American politician, currently vowed to support 'educating everyone on the need to curbing population growth' as response to climate change. If the climate attains 180 degree of change, it will obviously be the end of life on planet Earth. Unfortunately, due to lack of foresight and long-term implementation of population-control policies by successive governments, along with social stigma and resistance from the wrong religious beliefs, each time the topic of birth control is brought under discussion, there is a lot of hue and cry and the problem has been allowed to persist.

**W**

ith a population of 40,488,030 individuals, Pakistan (including East Pakistan) was the 14th largest country in the world, in 1955. Even after secession of its Eastern wing, Pakistan still hosted 10th largest population in 1975, after an interval of 20 years. Within the next 10 years, the country became eighth largest nation. And by the end of the previous century, it was hosting seventh largest population in the world. In 2005, the country rose to claim the sixth spot on this ranking. And in 2018, Pakistan became the fifth most populous nation on the planet. The data show that the population of Pakistan grew from 40 million in 1955 to 220 million in 72 years with 38% population living in the urban areas. Population growth rate is 2.4% per annum. It is estimated that after 30 years, i.e. in 2050, the country will have a population of 338 million people. Rapidly rising population has made economists, sociologists, environmentalists, administrators and politicians very much worried about the future of humanity. Overpopulation is threatening the future and joys of the coming generations. Massive growth in population can jeopardize the safety and security of the country. The pressing need of the hour is that the population should be regulated strictly to complement the available resources. Various factors are responsible for growing population and the dilemma is that they themselves are rising with population increase like a vicious circle, giving us the red signal of looming overpopulation-based tsunami the result of which would be only destruction, unless and until the root cause (population) is brought under control. First in the list of factors contributing to population growth is poverty. There is no denying the fact that poverty goes hand in hand with population increase. Poor people are more ignorant towards the disastrous effects of a large population. As they lack resources for outdoor entertainments, they always seek pleasure in company of their wives, without using any family planning devices. These people bear more children who also remain poor and lack resources for getting proper education and fulfilling other necessities of life—out of Pakistan's 80 million children, only 20% live in urban areas and have access to resources to meet their fundamental needs. They remain ignorant from generation to generation growing exponentially in size, and the cycle goes on. Instead of becoming good citizens, they are becoming an extra burden on the state, hence a threat to the future economic security. So, there is dire need of introducing population-control measures in this class; otherwise, the results would be hard to face. Almost 60% population of Pakistan is already living with food insecurities. If the population keeps on growing, agricultural lands will be used for settlement, as urban areas become more crowded. This will decrease overall agricultural production, making resources even more scarce and expensive. As result of food insecurity, an issue of stunting and malnutrition has also gained urgency nowadays.



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These will further be intensified by overpopulation, giving rise to weakened manpower that will not be able enough both mentally and physically to contribute towards the country's development.

Education also suffers when there is too much population. According to UNESCO, one in four Pakistani children will not be completing primary school by 2030—deadline for Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4. It shows a pathetic situation where educational facilities are not growing at par with the fast-increasing population. The government, on the other hand, is trying its best to educate more and more people, but all its efforts are thwarted by the uncontrollable flood of population, as a result the quality of education suffers. If this situation prevails, people having low-quality education would reach to the higher posts in administration. Corruption and bribery would follow that would ignite



POPULATION OF MAJOR CITIES CENSUS - 2017

TOP 10 CITIES	POPULATION		GROWTH %
	CENSUS - 2017	CENSUS - 1998	
1	2	3	
KARACHI CITY	14,910,352	9,339,023	59.65 %
LAHORE CITY	11,126,285	5,143,495	116 %
FAISALABAD M.CORP.	3,203,846	2,008,861	59.4 %
RAWALPINDI CITY	2,098,231	1,409,768	48.8 %
GUJRANWALA M.CORP.	2,027,001	1,132,509	78 %
PESHAWAR CITY	1,970,042	982,816	100 %
MULTAN CITY	1,871,843	1,197,384	-56 %
HYDERABAD CITY	1,732,693	1,166,894	48.4 %
ISLAMABAD M.CORP.	1,014,825	529,180	91.7 %
QUETTA CITY	1,001,205	565,137	77.1 %

many other issues. Overall, its result would be disastrous to the nation's future security.

At present, Pakistan hosts the second largest youth population in the world which, in effect, means that the country has a huge number of youngsters that can become agents of change. However, regrettably, most of these young people are unskilled, alienated, marginalised and victim of state policies. More population simply means more unskilled individuals and more mouths to feed. If we take a look at our skilled and educated youth, the situation is no less precarious as the government is unable to provide jobs to more than 6 million people who approach the working age every year. Hence, these youngsters opt for going abroad in search of a better future.

The cancer of overpopulation is also destroying the socioeconomic fabric of our society. The absence of savings slows down the country's growth in different

sectors of the economy and makes the country lag behind in the race of national development. The country then has no better option than taking loans from IMF—in itself is a big issue. Due to the sagging economy, it is predicted that country will remain in crisis for many years to come. This agony of overpopulation is boosting many more problems like lawlessness and terrorism, inflation, defective tax structure, shortage of water and electricity, costliness, urbanization, running out health facilities, government instability, the gap between the rich and the poor

and social evils like rising crime index, child abuse, child neglect, prostitution, drug abuse, narcotics, force migration and civil war. These all factors lower the standard of living in Pakistan.

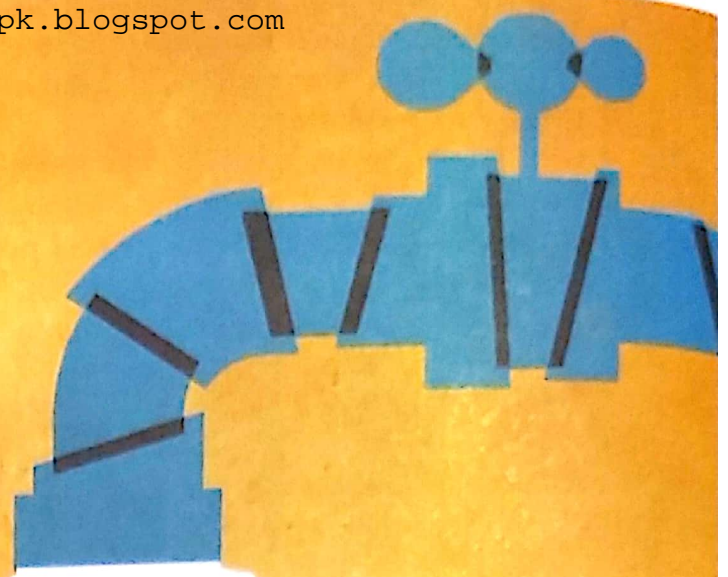
Rapidly increasing population is putting incredible strain on the environment as well. In his book titled as 'The Population Bomb', Paul Ehrlich wrote: "The battle to feed all the humanity is over. In 1970s, hundreds of millions of people will starve to death in spite of any crash programs embarked upon now." Mr Ehrlich could be incorrect in his exact prediction but we can see that he was not wrong about the disasters that overpopulation is inflicting. The production of wastes, destruction of natural habitat, deforestation, air, water and soil pollution, depletion of ozone layer, extinction of species, global warming, climate change and numerous ecological problems are becoming serious day by day due to overpopulation. According to South China Morning Post (SCMP), the current Covid-19 pandemic is the result of human overpopulation. It stated "This unchecked expansion into new habitats is bringing humans into increasing contact with wild animal pathogens against which we have no biological defences."

To sum up, overpopulation is a big evil for Pakistan and other developing countries across the world. In Pakistan, it is the mother of more than two-thirds of the country's problems. To deal with this, population awareness programmes already working must be made more robust, and strict laws for limiting family size should be enacted. The social stigmas hindering the population control must be removed by convincing religious scholars to openly talk about the distresses of overpopulation. Women's education must be promoted to make them aware about family planning techniques and its positive impacts on both family and country. Early marriages should be greatly discouraged and strict action should be taken against those who break this rule. Population growth in Pakistan needs to be brought under control; otherwise, the country will remain tangled in this web of predicaments. ■



# Water Crisis in Pakistan

Pakistan is part of 36 countries that are water-stressed. There are several factors that have contributed to the water crisis in Pakistan, such as an increase in population in urban areas, agriculture, mismanagement of the water system and climate change. If the water crisis in Pakistan is not solved, the impact felt by people in the country will worsen.



Hamza Sajid

**C**urrently, Pakistan is categorized as a water-scarce country because the yearly water availability is less than 1,000 cubic metres per person. The country crossed this level in 2005. If it reaches 500 cubic metres, it will become a country that is absolute scarce of water by 2025. The effect of the water crisis in Pakistan

is already being felt among people. In Pakistan, 80 percent of people living in 24 major cities do not have access to clean water. In the slums of Karachi, 16 million do not have access to running water.

Many people who do not have running water, are dependent on water trucks to fill their personal and family water tanks. A water truck may come only once a week. The lack of running water is being exploited by what is called the water mafia, which is a group of people that siphon water from the government that is meant for local people and sell it to them for higher prices. Although the government has tried to crack down on water mafia groups, they still exist.

## Causes

### 1. Population Increase

Pakistan is the sixth largest country in the world with more than 220 million people. Pakistan's population in 2010 was 179.42 million. By 2025, Pakistan's water demand could reach 274 million acre feet while the supply of water could remain at 191 million acre feet.

### 2. Agriculture

The commonly grown agriculture crops in the country are highly dependent on water. The country grows rice, wheat, cotton and sugarcane. Crops like these are responsible for 95 percent of the country's water use. Poor water management in Pakistan is causing high water waste within the agriculture sector. Pakistan has an inefficient irrigation system that causes a 60 percent water loss. In addition, Pakistan has low water productivity in

comparison with other countries. Water productivity is "the physical or economic output per unit of water application." Pakistan uses a lot more water to produce crops than in other countries.

### 3. Climate Change

Pakistan gets its water from rainfall and rivers as well as melting of snow and glaciers. Because rain is seasonal and 92 percent of the country is semi-arid, Pakistan is dependent on the rain for its water supply. Pakistan is facing an increasing demand for food while it is experiencing a reduction in the water supply. One of the reasons that Pakistan will face an increase in water demand could be climate change, which could increase the demand for water for crops. Climate change could cause the water in the soil to evaporate faster, which could increase the demand for water.

## Solutions

In 2018, the Pakistan government called both national and international Pakistanis to help fund a \$14 billion project to build two dams. The goal of the dam is to help Pakistan store more water and to supply the country with electricity. Although several Pakistani celebrities have donated towards the dam, there is still a lot of money needed to complete the project.

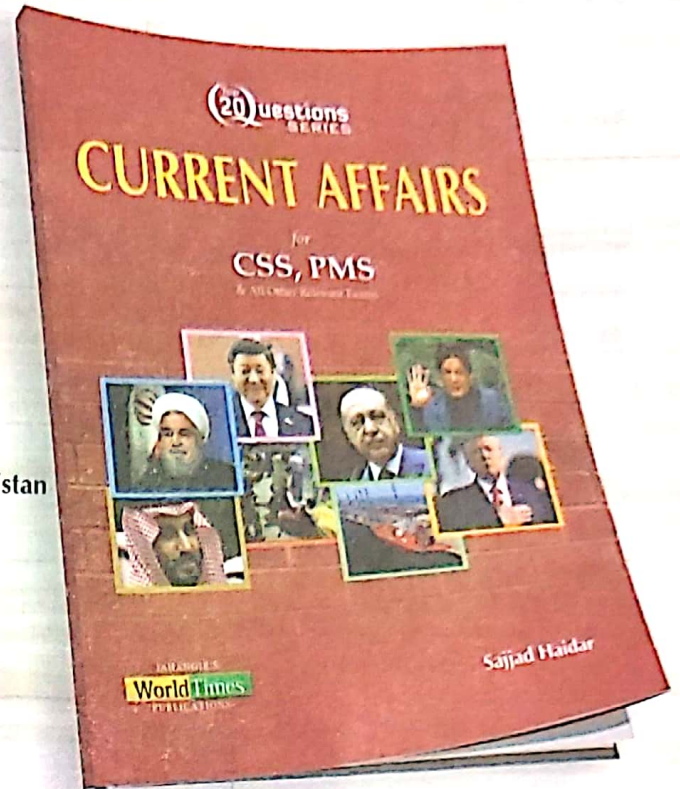
The government needs to take certain steps to slow down the water crisis in Pakistan. The Pakistan Academy of Sciences said that the country needs to expand its water storage, reduce water waste, improve water productivity and develop a framework that will help with the management of surface and groundwater. Although the clock is ticking for Pakistani's water supply, the government has started to act. Hopefully, it will be able to undo some of the damage before it is too late. ■



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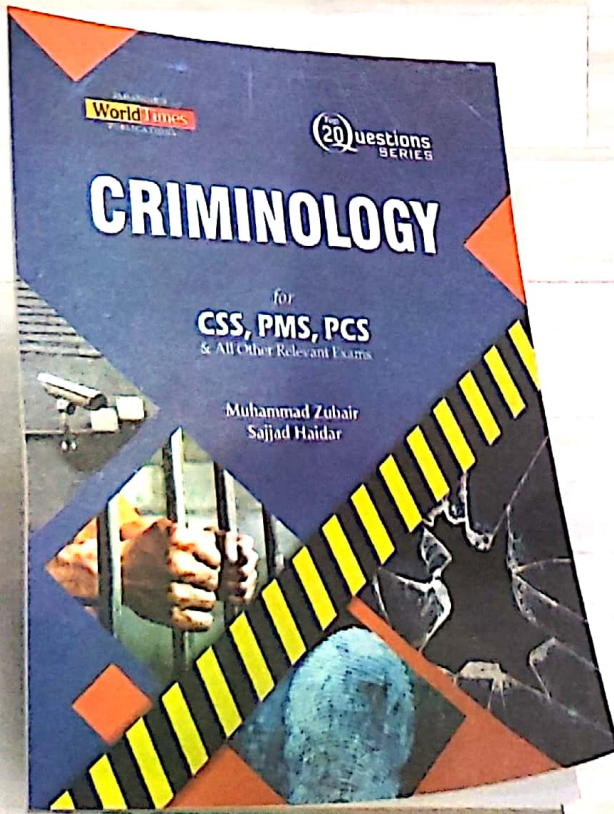
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As women make up around 50 percent of population, their participation in every sphere of life for the prosperity and progress of the nation is inevitable. While highlighting the importance of women's participation in every arena of life for the country's prosperity, Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, said in a 1944 speech: "No nation can rise to the heights of glory unless your women are side by side with you; we are the victims of evil customs. It is a crime against humanity that our women are shut up within the four walls of the house as prisoners."

Therefore, to emancipate women from the clutches of a stereotyped society, feminism, a belief in, and desire for, equality between the sexes, has been endeavouring to bring women to the mainstream, and grant them their due constitutional and religious rights.

Feminism, according to Merriam Webster, is "the belief that men and women should have equal rights and

opportunities." It has been an endeavour for social, political, economic and intellectual equality between the sexes. Bell Hooks, a prominent American author and feminist, in her book "Feminist Theory: From Margin to Center" calls feminism "a movement to end sexism, sexist exploitation and oppression."

However, due to incognizance with real purport of the term, feminism has been misinterpreted in its very context across the world in general and in Pakistan in particular. Thus, in this regard, here are some common misperceptions about feminism in Pakistan and their clarification, as well.

### **1. Feminism has overachieved**

The conception that feminism has overachieved its objectives is a dangerous myth. Opponents of the movement allege that feminism, while completely running its course, has now become redundant. They allege that women are now preferred in almost every

**By running its course completely, the notion of feminism has achieved its objectives, and is now redundant. It is a mantra of Westernization and Americanization which is aimed at spreading obscenity, and it also challenges the well-established Islamic mores. It tries to demonize man, and make woman dominant over man to tear apart the very fabric of the society. It intends to lead our Muslim women astray from the right path. All these, inter alia, are some misconceptions about feminism in Pakistan. In the instant write-up, an attempt has been made to enumerate these misconceptions and clarify them, in detail.**

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## **Misperceptions about**

# **feminism**

**in**

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sector of life; in fact, innocent men are now victims of gender discrimination. Even mediocre women are now favoured over the most deserving men in jobs, admissions and other career opportunities. Women can now easily blackmail, they argue, men by using sexual harassment as a tool.

Suffering from an inferiority complex, the devotees of masculinism often use such assertions, ignoring completely the fact that women get jobs and admissions on the basis of their abilities. However, they are still paid less than what their male counterparts get. Their ratio to men in jobs, as well as in other sectors, is still meagre. Besides, women are still subjected to sexual harassment at public places and offices. Those who opine that women use sexual harassment as a tool, are totally ignoring the fact that innocent women, if harassed, cannot even register their complaint because of the social stigma attached to it. Although feminism has, up to some extent, achieved its objectives, it still has a long way to go.

Therefore, the myth that feminism has overachieved is no less than propaganda to slow the speed feminism has gained.

## 2. Feminism is anti-Islamic

Another misconception about feminism among Pakistani populace is that it is an anti-Islamic movement. They argue that women should only obey their male guardians. Women have no need to come out of their houses because their needs—from food to shelter to clothing—are fulfilled by their guardians. They are staunch believers in Tennyson's words, "Man for the field and women for the hearth."

They stick to such stereotypical narratives because they are unaware of the fact that Islam does not prohibit women from working outside homes. Likewise, participation of early Muslim women in various activities depicts that Islam does not discriminate against them. For instance, the courageous act of taking active part, along with other Muslim women, as a warrior in Battle of Uhud by Nusaybah bint Ka'ab (RA); the appointment of Shifa Abdullah in Madina, the capital of first Islamic empire, and Samra Nuhayak (RA) in Makkah as market controller, by Hazrat Umar (RA), the second Rashidun caliph; acting of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) upon the advice given by Hazrat Umme Salma (RA), mother of the faithful, by shaving head on the occasion of Treaty of Hudaibiya. These examples reveal the active engagement of Muslim women in state matters, community affairs and decision-making.

## 3. Feminism is Westernism

Some conservatives have misconceived feminism as Westernism. They have been accusing feminists as foreign-funded agents who are out to inculcate Western ideals in Muslim women. Furthermore, they think of feminism as conspiracy by Jewish lobby against Muslims and believe that it will wreak havoc in Muslim world in the garb of human rights.

Those sceptics, who claim that feminism is a mantra of Westernization and Americanization, should bear in mind that, first and foremost, it is not so. Even if it is so, why not talk about women's rights in Pakistan where everything—from dress to fashion to lifestyle to eating habits—is under the Western influence?

## 4. Feminism propagates obscenity and vulgarity

Orthodox sects think of feminists as a cult that aims to spread liberal culture and vulgarity in Muslim women. It promotes bold culture and skimpier fashions, as it has exited the sphere of respectability, in our women, they believe. Such allegations were recently observed when

women conducted the Aurat March, a movement for women's rights, on 8<sup>th</sup> of March, the International Women's Day, demanding for their legitimate rights. The participants held banners with various slogans written on them. One slogan 'my body, my will', among others, was overwhelmingly misperceived by the misogynist lobby and was equated with vulgarity. However, it means to refuse to surrender her body to a rapist.

They want control over their

own body and reproductive functions, and over their lives, both within and outside homes. That's all!

In a patriarchal society like Pakistan, women are easily exploited, and are more prone to acid throwing, honour killing, forced marriage, forced conversion, marital rape, denial of social rights and right to inheritance and such other horrendous acts.

Recently, the cascade of rape and killing of minor girls in the country; forced prostitution of a fourteen-year-old girl by her uncle and brother; killing of a wife by her husband because the food she served was not 'hot enough'; killing of a seven-year-old niece by her uncle for 'making noise' at home, and other such incidences show how prone to man's wrath this oppressed creature is. The feminists only raise their voice for getting justice for female victims. Does it amount to obscenity and vulgarity?

## 5. Feminism is against homemaking

Anti-feminists misinterpret feminism by saying that it is





against homemaking. They argue if women, like men, come out from the domestic to public sphere, who would then look after home and the children? A woman, according to these people, is supposed to live only inside her home, perform reproductive labour and serve other members of the family. They think that if woman works outside her home, the social edifice of the family system will collapse.

Though working of a woman outside her home somehow affects homemaking, it does not mean she cannot, at all, work. Many women have been showing their talent by managing well their household and professional lives, simultaneously.

Women have full right to choose whether to be a housewife or work outside to earn a respectable living and to be financially independent. Many mothers, being helpless and without any patron, have to work to support their families, and for that, they must be respected as well as appreciated. Therefore, feminism does not make woman anti-homemaking, but it gives her choice of being a stay-at-home mom or finding opportunities outside, or simultaneously both.

#### **6. Feminism is to make woman dominant**

Many sceptics have portrayed feminism as a tool to make woman dominant over man. They assert that feminism will make man lose power, influence, authority, control, opportunities, and will give these things to women only. They fear women would override men, and thus their dominance, which they have sustained over the years, would perish.

Moreover, these sceptics oppose any attempt of bringing women to the mainstream, and allege that doing so will disturb the well-established social edifice. However, women, in many cases, have outperformed men, without any disturbance in the social framework.

In the contemporary times, we have the examples of prime minister of New Zealand, Jacinda Ardern; Chancellor of Germany, Angela Merkel; and President of Taiwan, Tsai Ing-wen in handling the current crisis of Covid-19. Being women, these leaders have outperformed the well-known populist leaders of the world like Donald Trump, Boris Johnson and Narendra Modi.

This shows that women are not, in any case, inferior to, and weaker than, men. They are equally competent and are sometimes even ahead of men in socioeconomic activities. Modern woman is intelligent; a free human being able to take care of herself and much interested in the events of the world.

Thus, the above discussion has made clear that women are no less competent than men, and feminism is not about


making woman superior to man, rather it is to eradicate oppression they are subjected to.

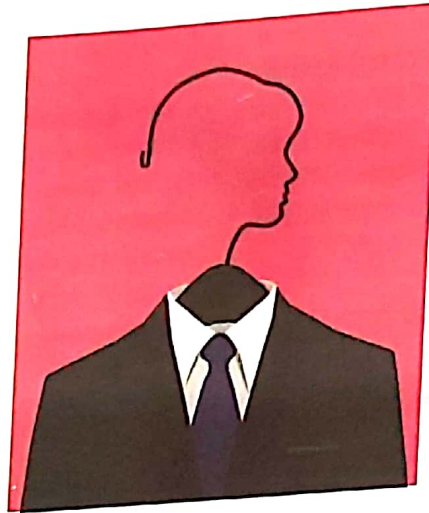
#### **7. Feminists are only women**

The misperception that feminism is a movement only for women and its activists must only be females depicts, in the first place, an utter lack of understanding of the term. This movement, in fact, not only advocates for women's rights, but has also been championing for the rights of transgenders, disabled and other ethnic and racial minorities as well as marginalized men.

Moreover, people of all genders, including men, have been endeavouring to further the gender equality. Men the world over, too, are supporting it through campaigns like 'Heforshe', a United Nations initiative campaign for the advancement of gender equality.

Similarly, about the male participants of feminism, the Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, a staunch supporter of feminism, during a conversation with Melinda Gates, said: "It is so important that we all understand ... it's not only that men can be feminists, it is that men should be feminists as well."

To sum up, feminism is fighting for and demanding of equal rights and opportunities without gender-based discrimination. However, due to one reason or another, this term, unfortunately, has been misperceived. It's not a bad word; one just needs to understand it better. It is only just about the economic, political and social equality of the sexes. It's pretty simple, isn't it? 







## THE PETROYUAN WILL LEAD THE GLOBAL ECONOMY

Globalization described the world as a single society. However, countries of the world are divided into developed, developing, underdeveloped, and least developed countries based on the levels of their socioeconomic development, education, governance, international relations, trade and business. After the demise of the Soviet Union, the world order got upended and the United States emerged as the sole hegemon and the largest economy of the world. Owing to this decades-old hegemony, the US has been, hitherto, playing the role of a global policeman. But, it has changed now as China, the world's second largest economy, is fast coming up as the next superpower of the world.

Mian Majid Ali Afzal



Fast-growing as a major economic powerhouse, China is the 4th largest source of foreign direct investments. Its economic policies seem imperialistic and can be termed as 'modern colonialism'. China also plays a hegemonic role over the South China Sea that is a part of the Pacific Ocean, having importance chokepoints like Strait of Malacca which is very crucial to global trade. China's strategy has been the one of finding an upper hand in world economy and, for that, it invested in countries that are usually considered rogue for their human security violations. China's use of its veto power in the UN Security Council to protect countries such as Iran from sanctions is but only one dimension of its energy politics. The Chinese oil companies have pursued an aggressive investment policy in the western hemisphere—particularly in Venezuela and Saudi Arabia which is the holder of the world's largest proven oil reserves, supplying 16 percent of China's total oil imports. For the time being, Saudi Arabia has aligned its long-term security and defence interests with the United States, but it might one day make sense for the Saudis to align with China. Moreover, China is now the top importer of oil and gas from Iran. It is also the biggest investor in Sudan with an estimated cumulative stake of \$8 billion. The China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC) is the state shareholder of the largest oil enterprise in Sudan (40%).

China's peaceful rise seems successful as it has been able to secure energy and raw materials without confronting

the United States and the West. However, it has posed a daunting threat to the rule of petrodollar. But unseating the petrodollar will not be easy without the intervention of some major oil producers including Russia and Saudi Arabia which constitute 26 percent of world's total oil output and 25 percent of oil exports. Along with Iran and Venezuela, Russia is also on board. Today, China seems successful in convincing Saudi Arabia to start accepting petroyuan for its crude oil, and other oil-exporting countries will follow suit. Saudi Arabia has accepted petroyuan for payments of oil exported to China and Asia-Pacific countries while continuing to accept petrodollar for exports to other parts of the world. Even such a compromise will tip the balance in favour of petroyuan, as 75 percent of KSA's oil exports go to the Asia-Pacific region and China. The launch of the crude oil benchmark for the Shanghai Stock Exchange could mark the beginning of the petrodollar's end. The effect of the US sanctions on Iran, Russia and Venezuela will be substantially reduced once petroyuan replaces petrodollar. It could prove to be a major game-changer for global energy markets, global economy and the effectiveness of US sanctions. With the petroyuan leading global oil exchange, the yuan will definitely emerge as the world's biggest reserve currency within the next decade. ■

*The writer is a member of  
Anti-Drug Task Force Punjab.*

*He can be reached at: mianmajid582@gmail.com*





## The world must prevent Virus-induced Hunger

**Many uncertainties haunt the world's campaign to counter the Covid-19 pandemic, but one thing is now sure: global economic activity will suffer greatly, with large-scale consequences for the incomes and welfare of all, but especially for the most vulnerable food import-dependent countries. In the absence of timely and effective policy responses, this will exacerbate an already unwelcome increase in the number of people who don't have enough to eat.**

Last year the "State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World", the Sustainable Development Goal-2 monitoring report that the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) produces in collaboration with other UN partners, warned that economic slowdowns and downturns helped explain rising undernourishment levels in 65 of the 77 countries that recorded such rises between 2011 and 2017. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has just slashed its global gross domestic product forecast by a huge 6.3 percentage points, making the FAO's analysis all the more relevant as part of a worldwide toolkit to prevent the health crisis from triggering starvation. In January, the IMF anticipated global GDP would expand by 3.3 percent, but in April, when much of the world was shutting down to contain the contagion, it issued a new forecast of minus 3.0 percent. Sub-

Marco V. Sánchez Cantillo  
Saharan Africa, a region that is home to the world's highest hunger rates and where the average age is around 20 years, must now brace for its first recession in a quarter of a century. Analyzing data of food supply since 1995, linked to the FAO's statistical development of the prevalence of undernourishment indicator, and correlating them to past local economic trends in countries that are net food importers, we find that millions of people are likely to join the ranks of the hungry as a result of the Covid-19-triggered recession. That number will vary according to the severity of GDP growth contractions, ranging from 14.4 million to 80.3 million depending on the scenario, with the latter figure a truly devastating contraction of 10 percentage points in all 101 net food-importing countries' GDP growth. The actual outcome could be worse if current





inequalities in access to food worsen— something that absolutely should not be allowed to happen.

The world is not facing food shortages, which is why the FAO has from the pandemic's outset advocated that all countries must do their best to keep food supply chains alive. With the new estimates emerging from a strictly economic analysis— based on food supply and availability and not other central pillars of food security— the FAO is emphasizing that all countries also foster measures to protect people's ability to access food that is locally, regionally and globally available.

The nexus between undernourishment and economic performance was already driving the world away from the goal of eradicating hunger by 2030. The FAO's global prevalence of undernourishment number has been rising since 2015, albeit slowly, ending decades of decline. It is now around where it was in 2010, and under-nutrition affects one in nine people globally, with much higher rates in large swathes of Africa and Asia.

Governments are rolling out unprecedented fiscal and monetary stimulus to conserve economic capital and support safety nets for the newly unemployed. Many countries lack the tools to deploy such liquidity injections and public spending commitments. The international community must facilitate their capacity to act, while these countries must exert fiscal responsibility and objectivity to reallocate their own resources along with assistance to the most urgent needs that the Covid-19 pandemic has created.

Health is the first priority, but sufficient and healthy food is a central part of the health response to the pandemic. Inadequate action will also severely weaken vulnerable populations for years to come. This would make the prospect of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals all the more difficult.

So not only must efforts focus on keeping food supply chains alive, but it is also imperative to focus on food accessibility for all. Governments have an opportunity to tackle this issue head on by targeting the required official stimulus packages to the poorest and undernourished. Tools such as cash and in-kind

transfers, new credit lines, safety nets, food banks, and keeping school-lunch programmes alive can be useful.

Keep in mind that emphatically focusing on "have-nots" will have a doubly positive effect, both helping those most in need and maximizing the impact of public resource outlays on maintaining the dynamism of demand.



There could be a third positive effect as well: Minimizing outright hunger in ways that avoid food insecurity and malnutrition will reduce the long-term scars inflicted by the recession, fostering more vitality and less dependence in the future. Indeed, insofar as possible stimulus measures that tackle the current menace to food access should be designed with a view to start building the resilience of food systems to safeguard them against economic slowdowns and downturns in the future. ■

*The author is deputy-director of Agricultural Development Economics Division of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.  
Courtesy: China Daily*





In Conversation with

# Rana Muhammad Dilawar (PSP)

## 39th in Pakistan, CSS 2018-19

“Only in PSP, you can give immediate relief to the distressed people.”



**J**ahangir's World Times (JWT): First of all, please tell us about your educational background? Rana Muhammad Dilawar (RMD): I got my initial education from Government

Emerson College, Multan. Then, I did BA from the same college with distinction throughout Punjab, and was selected for CM Punjab World Study Tour Program in 2011. Afterwards, I earned a master's degree in International Relations from QAU, Islamabad with Gold Medal (2013). Later, I did MPhil in Defence & Strategic Studies from the same university in 2017. I have worked in Multan Development Authority as Assistant Director Estate & Land Management. I also have the distinction of working in Parliament House as Young Parliamentary Associate in an EU-funded project IP3 (Improving Parliamentary Performance in Pakistan).

**JWT: Since you have been allocated to the Police Service of Pakistan (PSP), what was the feature of this service that attracted you most?**

**RMD:** PSP is considered among the most powerful groups as it gives an officer immense powers and prestige. I am a strong believer of the maxim that power is conferred upon an individual to carry out the burden of responsibilities which are allied with a task or job. Only in PSP, you can give immediate relief to the distressed people. Moreover, this group offers an individual an opportunity to work both in the field and also in the capacity of a policymaker.

**JWT: What, in your opinion, is the key to making a difference in written part of CSS exam?**

**RMD:** Every aspirant has a different approach towards acing the

JWT Editorial Board written part of CSS exam. There is no 'one size fits all' solution to it and every aspirant has to devise his/her own strategy. Some of the things that helped me in this regard were:

1. Keeping calm and treating CSS exam as an exam like the ones that one keeps on giving over the course of one's academic years.
2. More importantly, taking good care of health and ensuring proper sleep during exam.
3. Making e-notes as they are easily manageable.
4. Quoting references from recently-published books, journals, reports, etc.
5. Covering outlines of different topics instead of cramming every recommended book.
6. Reading relevant, credible and good material so as to understand and reproduce the best possible knowledge on the answer sheet.
7. Doing a lot of written practice as it gives you the required confidence to ace the CSS exam.
8. Taking mock exams; it is of paramount importance to nullify the anxiety that overpowers an aspirant and leads towards failure.
9. Making notes at the appropriate time and updating them regularly.
10. Learning how an argument is built from scratch.

**JWT: Generally, compulsory subjects are considered low-scoring, what was your strategy to get through these**

**very papers?**

**RMD:** I followed a 5-point strategy.

1. Writing and practicing English essays on a regular basis.
2. Getting essays evaluated, and working on mistakes so that every essay is better than the last.
3. Not letting English Composition paper get on my nerves, and preparing for all the components rather than just Précis.
4. Studying Islamiat

### Detailed Marks Sheet

Subject	Marks
<b>Compulsory Subjects</b>	
Essay	48
Précis & Composition	56
GSA	77
Current Affairs	59
Pakistan Affairs	43
Islamiat	60
<b>Optional Subjects</b>	
International Relations	137
History of Pakistan & India	85
Environmental Science	35
International Law	59
Geography	84
<b>Total Written</b>	<b>743</b>
Viva Voce	110
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>853</b>



## INTERVIEW

## My Interview Experience

Before entering the interview room, I was a bit nervous despite all the efforts. However, when I entered the room, the panellists greeted me warmly and made me feel comfortable. One highlight of my interview was when Mr Chairman asked me: 'You have to tell us the solution of the Kashmir issue immediately as you are a strategist?' I have shared all the possible bookish and novel solutions, but they kept on insisting we want immediate solution right now. At this, I said, 'Sir, when the renowned strategists of the world are clueless, then how come I to predict the immediate solution in a short span of time.' Mr Chairman burst into laughter at this and other members joined him too. This is how I defused the pressure of the members. So, it was a very good experience overall.



from different, original sources. Quoting renowned scholars and writing Persian and Urdu poetry and translating it into English.

5. Preparing current affairs from multiple papers and international journals.

**JWT: How answers should be written to get maximum marks?**

**RMD:** Answers should be properly structured with an introduction, body and conclusion. This structure should be followed in all subjects. Instead of a traditional introduction, I would recommend to start writing from any latest development, as it gives an impression that you know the latest development. Headings must be given as they facilitate the examiner. Your arguments must be logical, relevant, coherent and non-clichéd. They must not give the impression that you consulted sub-standard material during preparation. Sound reasoning skills must be applied to the body. Conclusion must be treated as conclusion, not just as the summary of the question. The arguments must be effectively closed and concluded in this part.

**JWT: How did you structure your Essay and what was your strategy for Précis and Composition Paper?**

**RMD:** I always start essay in a non-traditional way. I used to start from any latest development related to the essay topic. I wrote a thesis statement at the start which had three components, i.e. stance, direction and broader implication. The outline was derived from the thesis statement, and not from the topic of the essay. Outline was in the form of arguments, not pointers. Every point of outline was an individual argument and one flowed from another. I wrote a catchy introduction which introduced the thesis statement in an effective way. Moreover, I never tried to copy any writing style and just kept on improving my own. Using strong words is not a necessity. Just keep one thing in mind: 'the simpler, the better'. Précis and Composition paper is important regarding all its aspects. Synonyms and

antonyms must be considered as important as

précis itself. The biggest fallacy an aspirant can fall into is only preparing for précis and ignoring other components. All components must be given equal weight in order to secure good marks.

**My tips on:**

**Selection of optional subjects**

Only those subjects should be chosen in which you feel you're interested. In this way, you'll never be bored while preparing for them for long periods of time. Moreover, also follow the scoring trend. But again it's a gamble.

**Notes-making**

1. Try to make notes in MS Word format as they are easily manageable. You can easily add and delete anything.
2. Notes must be very precise.
3. Include quotations and other relevant information at the top of the page.
4. Keep updating them.
5. If the initial notes are not short enough, be sure to make them shorter. ☐

## Rapid Fire

Your inspiration	My father
Attempts	03
Qualification	MPhil in Defence & Strategic Studies
Alma mater	Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad
Schooling medium	English
Your study schedule	5-8 hours a day
Your sources	Recommended books, research papers, Internet resources, credible journals, general books on history and politics, magazines
Group preferences	1. PAS 2. PSP 3. FSP
Why these groups?	Diverse nature of job with horizontal mobility and a chance to interact with, and solve the problems of, public at large. And, PSP because it gives opportunities to work both in the field and in the highest echelons of policymaking.
Hobbies	Numismatics, Playing Guitar, Cycling,
Fave personality	Holy Prophet (PBUH)
Fave book(s)	"Character is Destiny" by John McCain
Fave quote	"And, when you want something, all the universe conspires in helping you to achieve it." — Paulo Coelho (The Alchemist)
Secret of your success	Divine providence, smart study, use of credible, diverse resources and lots of written practice, coupled with efforts to make paper distinguished from the rest of the lot
Your role model	Reputed Chinese strategist Sun Tzu



Pakistanis  
who made it to



Asia List for 2020

Magazine Desk



#### 1. Bilal Bin Saqib (Founder, Tayaba)

Bilal Bin Saqib is cofounder of Tayaba, a social enterprise that aims to provide solutions to the water crisis in Pakistan. One of its initiatives is the 'H2O wheel,' a plastic wheel container connected to a metal bar that helps to reduce the burden on women and children who carry water in rural Pakistan for miles each day. The wheel is able to carry up to 40 litres of water, which is 8 to 10 times more than what a mud pot (traditionally used to carry water) can hold. To date, Saqib says that Tayaba has distributed about 5,500 H2O wheels in Pakistan.

#### 2. Nashra Balagamwala (Designer, Nashra.co)

Nashra Balagamwala is an experiential designer who designed a board game to raise awareness about arranged marriage and its challenges. Other games she has created include Paltering Politicians, a card game that makes a statement about corruption and hypocrisy in politics. Currently enrolled in a master's degree program at Harvard University, Balagamwala is working on a project focused on creating a peaceful dialogue between Pakistan and India.

#### 3. Orenda (CDOs, Orenda)

Orenda developed an educational learning app, Taleemabad (which translates to 'long live education' in Urdu) that uses animated cartoons to teach Pakistan's national curriculum to children living in slums or rural communities. To support children in areas with no internet access, Orenda developed a tablet with preloaded content as an offline learning solution. Orenda says its

Taleemabad app has more than 150,000 users in Pakistan. In 2018, cofounder and CEO Haroon Yasin received the Queen's Young Leaders Award from the Queen of England for Orenda's work to promote education in Pakistan.

#### 4. PakVitae (Cofounders, PakVitae)

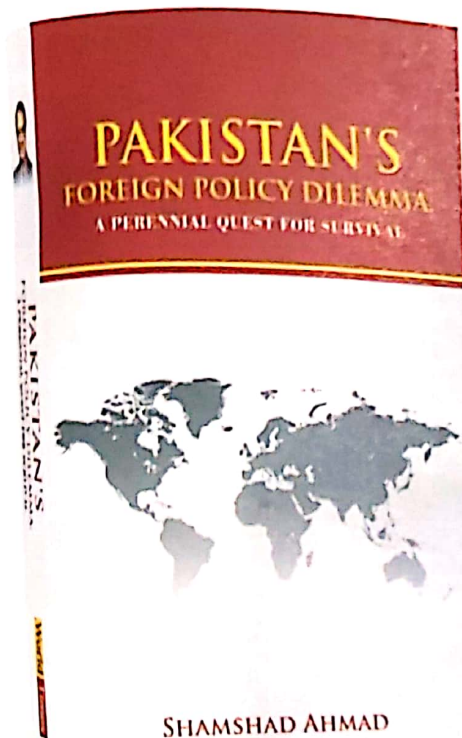
PakVitae is a Pakistan-based startup that aims to clean drinking water of water-borne bacteria, viruses and contaminants in developing countries. Founded by Arslan Ahmad, Shayan Sohail and Hafiz Usama Tanveer, the trio developed a low-cost, membrane-based solution that requires no electricity or chemical cleaning. It can be used as a filter attached to a faucet and has helped about 10,000 people to date. The team is planning to expand its solution into India, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh as well as African countries. In 2018, PakVitae was the regional winner of the Hult Prize, an annual competition aimed at conceptualizing ideas to sustainably solve global social challenges.

#### 5. Queno

Farida Kanwal Mughal and Muhammad Zubair cofounded Queno, an app through which teachers can manage class activities and keep parents in the loop on their children's progress. It was incubated at The Nest I/O, a tech incubator launched by the Pakistani software industry, in partnership with Google for Entrepreneurs and Samsung and with support from the US State Department. Queno has signed up 45 schools in Karachi, Islamabad and Lahore, and raised capital from Oman Tech Fund. It was also the GSMA Hackathon Winner Barcelona, Spain. 📌



## Our Newest Publications



SHAMSHAD AHMAD

**AVAILABLE NOW!**

### PAKISTAN'S FOREIGN POLICY DILEMMA: A PERENNIAL QUEST FOR SURVIVAL

Shamshad Ahmad's book stands out as a thorough and stimulating study of Pakistan's foreign policy that combines a diplomat's experience with academic discourse. It is not a chronology of major developments in Pakistan's interaction with the rest of the world.

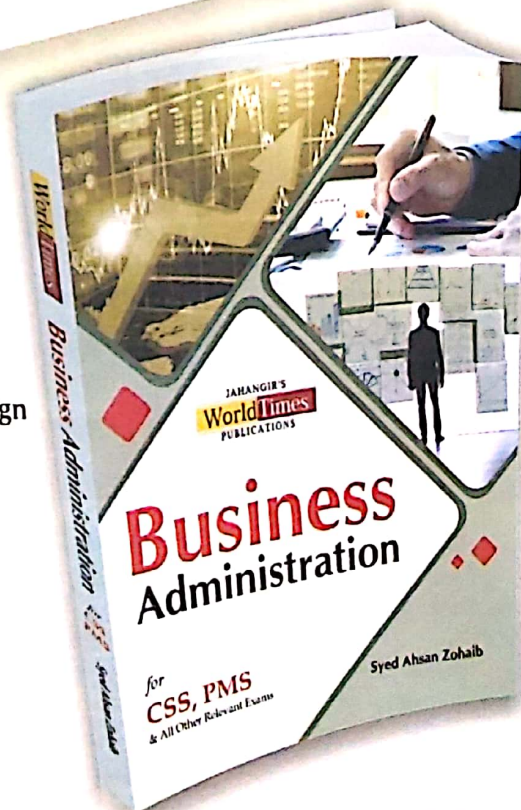
**Dr Hasan Askari Rizvi; PhD (U. Penn.)**  
Professor Emeritus (PU, Lahore)  
Former Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab

"Pakistan's Foreign Policy Dilemma: A Perennial Quest for Survival" offers a comprehensive overview drawing upon the author's vast experience and insights acquired as a distinguished and well-respected Pakistani diplomat.

**Riaz Mohammad Khan**  
Former Foreign Secretary

#### Highlights

- Management Planning & Decision Making
- Developing Organizational Structure & Design
- Leadership & Motivation
- HR Management
- Financial Management
- Cash Flow & Budgeting
- Supply Chain Management
- Developing Marketing Strategies & Plans
- ...& much more



by Syed Ahsan Zohaib



# The 20

## Pulitzer Prize Winners in Feature Photography

Usman Ahmad  
Channi Anand, Mukhtar Khan and Dar Yasin of Associated Press  
For striking images captured during a communications blackout in Kashmir depicting life in the contested territory after India stripped it of its semi-autonomy.



### 1. Channi Anand

Channi Anand is based in Jammu, a strategic location not far from the India-Pakistan border that experiences frequent cross-border violence. Seeing people flee their homes has become routine but it still affects him each time he covers stories of displacement. He has followed political developments between the neighbours relentlessly for the Associated Press since 2000. After more than two decades in the field, Channi now finds himself at home working on social issues, natural calamities, live encounters between security forces and terrorists or the extreme weather conditions that is harshest for the homeless. He has also travelled to work on a story on Siachen Glacier, the highest battleground in the world.

### 2. Mukhtar Khan

Mukhtar Khan was born and brought up in the Indian-Occupied Kashmir, where he has lived all his life. In his over two-decade long career, he has extensively covered the region—following the Kashmir conflict on a daily basis, the 2005 earthquake that shook his region, stories between the nuclear-armed neighbours India and Pakistan, along with other major stories that unfolded in his beat. Through it all, Khan has focused on the daily life of war-torn Kashmir. He started working with the Associated Press in 2000 before joining the organization fulltime in 2004. He won an Atlanta Journalism Award in 2015.

### About The Winners

### 3. Dar Yasin

Dar Yasin, born in 1973, in Indian Kashmir, studied bachelors in computer science and technology in South of India. Dar has extensively covered the Kashmir conflict, South Asia Earthquake and its aftermath, and the historical opening of the bus route between divided Kashmir. On assignment in Afghanistan, he has covered the Afghan War, Afghan Refugees and daily life of war-torn Afghans. Dar has also covered the Rohingya refugee crisis who fled large-scale violence and persecution in Myanmar. His works have appeared in all the major newspapers and news magazines around the globe. Dar's work has earned him dozens of international photo awards.



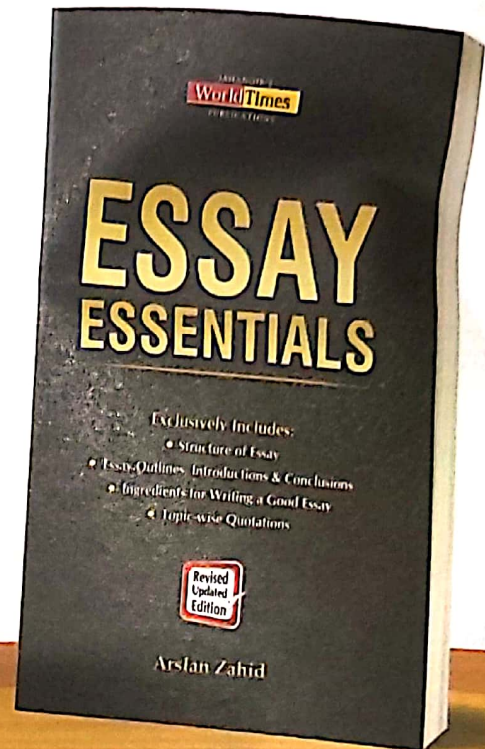


JAHANGIR'S

**World Times**  
PUBLICATIONS

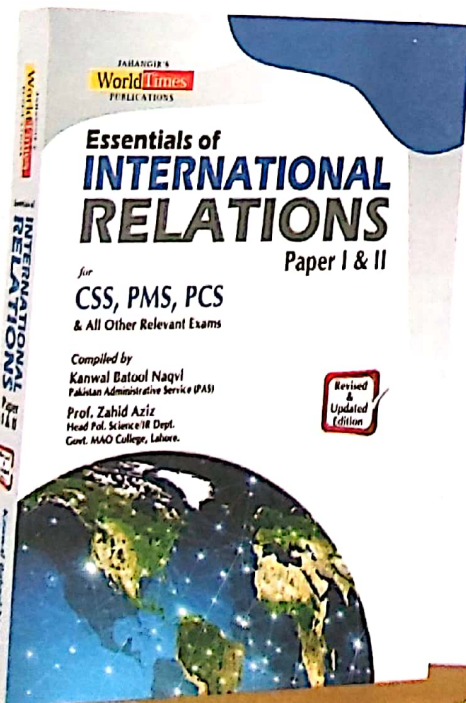
## Highlights

- Structure of Essay
- Essay Outlines
- Introductions & Conclusions
- Transitions & Connectives In Essay Writing
- Ingredients for Writing a Good Essay
- Topic-wise Quotations
- ... & much more



## Highlights

- Introduction to International Relations
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Many international relations scholars believe that a potential victim of the Covid-19 crisis would be the process of globalization itself. While crises are indeed moments for changes in the course of history, not everything is fundamentally different after the crisis has passed. Coronavirus will definitely impact the world order, but it cannot bring the end to the globalization as the world today is more entwined and complicated, and the current world order is based on the free movement of people, free trade, deregulated markets, minimum role of governments in economic activities, global supply chains and the excessive role of global financial institutions.



## Covid-19 and the Nation-State

The Death of Globalization?

Ansar Hafeez

**S**ocial science research shows us that social practices change as a result of a crisis when three conditions are met:

1. The practices in question must be seen as the cause or at least the aggravation of the crisis.
2. There must be alternatives to the previously established patterns of action that are feasible and not too costly.

3. A crisis is particularly likely to lead to change if the practices concerned were already in decline before the crisis.

Against this background, it must be doubted whether economic globalization will also become a victim of Covid-19. There is a simple reason for that. The virus as such is not a consequence of globalization but of the failure of, or over-reliance on, localization. In each case, the onset of the pandemic occurred locally and then spread epidemically in the region. But the results differed widely, depending on the competence and intensity of local/national management of the pandemic.

However, the ability of the infection to spread from region to region did not depend on globalization. The transportation connections that had long been the hallmark of an interdependent world would have been sufficient for this. The only way for a virus to be confined regionally is to ensure that there are no more aeroplanes, trains or ships. But that would not be the end of globalization.

Of course, there are alternatives to the present patterns of global production and supply chains. A partial re-nationalization of economic processes is possible. However, this would lead to increased costs and considerable welfare losses.

However, it is important to realize that this is not an

environment in which the prospects for globalization will decrease. It is true that the production of protective masks and some medications may be rebuilt in many nation states. But these are special circumstances that are not suitable for generalization.

It is also true that the pace of globalization was already slowing down before the crisis. But that is not the same as saying that it was actually declining in practice. A slower acceleration does not represent a reversal. That is also why it should not be compared to a decline.

Economic globalization was at a high level before the crisis. The odds are that, give or take some modifications, it will probably return to that level after the crisis.

Therefore, caution is called for when prematurely proclaiming the end of globalization.

After the crisis, some practical aspects will change. There will probably be more video conferences and fewer international business meetings than before. That would make sense.

All the more so as during the Covid-19 crisis, many of us have intuitively learned the immediateness of video conferences. It is much easier to assemble a great group of people for discussion, if they just have to clear their schedule for a four-hour session, rather than travelling for most of a day on the front and back ends of such an event.

It is also likely that the virus will accelerate the death of local retailers and, by the same token, further increase the market share of big companies. Covid-19 will also speed up the process of digitalization—and, better yet, more globalization, of education—since we found ourselves forced to adopt new digital practices. Finally, as to supply chains, it seems unlikely that German or other companies will cut back foreign production facilities on a large scale. ■



## INTERVIEW



*"I would say PMS may have been possible without JWT, but not that easy."*

*In Conversation with*  
**Muhammad Adeel Khan**

**13th in Punjab, PMS 2019-20**

JWT Edit. Board

Assuming that one has sufficient knowledge to answer the question, one must avoid beating around the bush. Furthermore, I repeatedly checked my answers whether they were relevant, precise and coherent. Moreover, I made an apt use of markers, tables and quotes (verses in case of Islamiyat) to stay ahead of others in the competition.

**JWT: How answers should be written to get maximum marks in the written part of PMS exam?**

**MAK:** In order to get maximum marks in the written part of PMS exam, an aspirant should be able to manage time well. Without writing quality answers to all questions, there is all likelihood that you will end up getting low marks. Interpretation of the vocabulary from the question statement plays a pivotal role in one's success. One should be able to distinguish between the words like elaborate, analyse and criticize. Lastly, knowledge is the arm and armour of a candidate in the exam hall; therefore, all horizontal and vertical dimensions of the topic should be on one's fingertips.

**JWT: How did you structure your Essay?**

**MAK:** Firstly, there were two topics I could write on. To avoid the confusion, I wrote thesis statement for both topics and chose to write the one whose thesis seemed more appropriate to me. Then, after choosing the topic, I spent some

minutes recalling my knowledge about the topic, and started writing the outline. The whole exercise took 30-35 minutes. Then, I started writing the essay and was able

**J**ahangir's World Times (JWT): First of all, please tell us about your educational background?

**Muhammad Adeel Khan (MAK):** I got my early education from my village. It was 'The Educators School', Vehari, which helped me excel in academics. Having passed matriculation and FSc with flying colours, I joined NUST College of Electrical & Mechanical Engineering (EME College) for a degree in Electrical Engineering.

**JWT: How much helpful did you find Jahangir's World Times (JWT) in your preparation for PMS exam? And, how was your experience at the World Times Institute?**

**MAK:** I would say PMS may have been possible without JWT, but not that easy. I met my mentor Sir Sarmad at World Times Institute (WTI) and his support had been pivotal in acing the PMS exam. Moreover, I joined WTI for mock interviews and it really helped me in my final interview.

**JWT: What, in your opinion, is the key to getting through compulsory papers of PMS exam, especially that of General Knowledge?**

**MAK:** The key to getting good marks in General Knowledge paper is thorough study. Moreover, trusting your instinct in the exam hall, too, works wonders.





## INTERVIEW

to finish it in time. Paragraphs in an essay for competitive exams, e.g. CSS, PCS and PMS, must be connected like a chain and, while reading the essay, the examiner shouldn't feel that he is wandering between numerous incoherent thoughts.

**JWT: What was your strategy for the General Knowledge paper?**

**MAK:** This paper requires good memorization skills. I would study for it early in the morning while the mind was fresh and working at its best. Then, I would go through

to go with English.

**JWT: How one should choose Optional Subjects?**

**MAK:** The very idea of optional subjects is to provide a candidate with the option of playing on his strengths. Keen interest, ease and availability of quality content should be kept in mind while choosing optional subjects. I believe scoring trends are half-truths.

**JWT: Who deserves the credit for your success?**

**MAK:** There are many people who served as enablers at various points in my life. I believe they all deserve the

## Rapid Fire

Attempts	01
Schooling medium	Both Urdu and English
Your qualification	Electrical Engineering
Alma mater	NUST EME College
Your study schedule	6-9 hours
Your sources	Books, magazines and newspapers. For Agriculture I mostly relied on web-based sources
Your strength	Persistence and self-accountability
Hobbies & activities	Reading and travelling
Fave personality	Will Durant
Fave book	The Lessons of History by Will and Ariel Durant
Fave quote	"For what profits a man if he gains the whole world and loses his own soul."
Secret of your success	An urge to realize my potential to its full.
Your role model	Hazrat Ali (R.A)

## Advice for Fresh Aspirants

Tough times don't last, tough people do. Believe in yourself and stay consistent and persistent.

credit. But the late-night prayers of my parents deserve special mention.

**JWT: As interviewers usually grill the interview candidates, how did you manage the situation?**

**MAK:** It was a very smooth interview in every sense of the word. The panellists did ask some very tough questions which I answered confidently. In case of not knowing the answer I humbly informed the panel of my inability. At one point, a panelist did say, 'shabaash' and that elevated my confidence further. Some questions were related to facts and figures and at that moment the panel allowed me some guesswork. In the interview room, the key to success is that you just don't crack under pressure. ■

MCQs from various sources like past papers, GK books and past papers available online. In the actual exam, I first attempted only those questions which I could answer without looking at the options. There weren't more than 15 of them. Given negative marking such an exercise is necessary to raise one's confidence.

**JWT: Should there be some word limit kept in mind while writing answers?**

**MAK:** Given that a candidate is producing quality answers, no answer should exceed 6-8 pages. Restraining oneself is the key to success in competitive exams. As an examiner has a limited time to check a paper, a candidate must take cognizance of this fact and adhere to the word limit.

**JWT: Is it better to attempt optional papers in Urdu or one should go with English only?**

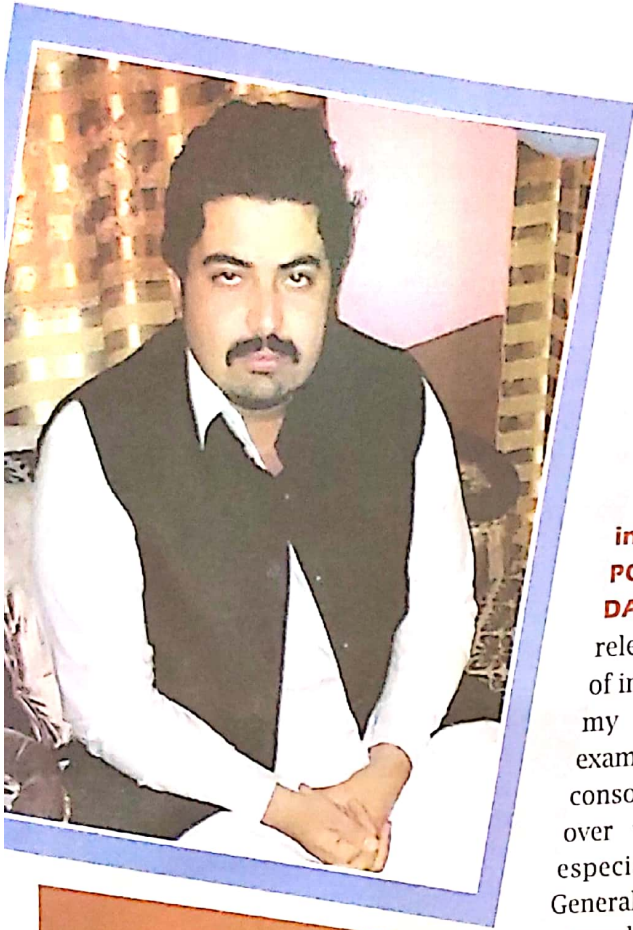
**MAK:** Due to paucity of quality content in Urdu, it is better

## My Interview Experience

In the beginning, Mr Chairman asked some questions related to my family and my preparation strategy for PMS examination. Then, it was mostly related to history, literature and agriculture. One of the panellists tested my knowledge in Electrical Engineering as well and for a while he discussed various aspects of the energy crisis. I avoided sweeping statements.







## In Conversation with Dr Altaf Ali Mangi

69th in Sindh, PCS 2018-19

JWT Edit. Board

**in your preparation for PCS exam?**

**DAAM:** JWT was quite a relevant and updated source of information for me during my preparations for PCS examination. It helped me in consolidating my command over various current topics, especially those related to General Knowledge paper. Well-researched articles by veteran writers and updated general knowledge MCQs published by JWT were a readymade source of information for me. In all, JWT is highly productive and fruitful for a sound preparation of all competitive examinations.

**JWT: What, in your opinion, is the key to getting through compulsory papers of PCS exam, especially that of General Knowledge?**

**DAAM:** I think the key to getting through compulsory subjects is to be specific, instead of general, in preparing the topic as well as writing the answers. A candidate must develop his/her own analysis on the topics and for that (s)he must go through different sources like books and other available reading material.

**JWT: How answers should be written to get maximum marks in the written part of PCS exam?**

**DAAM:** One should write the answer in such a manner that the examiner finds it easy to go through one's

paper and also feel a difference in content. It can be done by giving figures, headings and subheadings, as well as by drawing diagrams to support one's answer. Moreover, a candidate must first fully comprehend the question and then structure the answer accordingly. This will help you avoid digression.

**JWT: How did you structure your Essay?**

**DAAM:** After comprehending the topic and analysing its dimensions, I spent almost 35 minutes on making the outline and writing introduction

### Detailed Marks Sheet

Subject	Marks
English Essay	17
English	63
Essay in Sindhi	44
General Paper Sindhi	79
General Knowledge (incl. EDS)	72
<b>Optional Subjects</b>	
Sindhi Literature	117
Islamic History Period 1	128
Islamiyat	81
<b>Total Written</b>	<b>601</b>
Viva Voce	106
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>707</b>

### Advice for Fresh Aspirants

Work smartly, make scheduled study, set the goals and also the time frame to achieve them. Develop your own notes. Don't get de-motivated even if you fail this prestigious exam. Believe in yourself, work hard and be consistent in your efforts.

JWT is highly  
productive and fruitful  
for a sound  
preparation of all  
competitive examinations.

**J**ahangir's World Times (JWT): First of all, please tell us about your educational background?

**Dr Altaf Ali Mangi**

**(DAAM):** I have a diverse educational background. I went to a government school and college until intermediate. Then, I did Pharm. D from Sindh University, Jamshoro and later earned an MPhil degree in Pharmaceutics. Currently, I am doing PhD in medicine from Gomal University, Dera Ismail Khan.

**JWT: How much helpful did you find Jahangir's World Times (JWT)**



## INTERVIEW

to the essay as well as the thesis statement. I gave my arguments in lucid English but in a clear and proper way. The key is to understand the topic and give sound arguments thereupon in grammatically-correct English.

**JWT: What was your strategy for the Objective (MCQs) part?**

**DAAM:** To prepare well for the Objective part, I consulted past papers and JWT books on General Knowledge, and online sources.

**JWT: Should there be some word limit kept in mind while writing answers?**

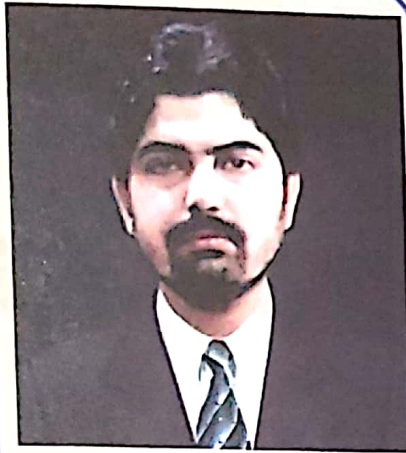
**DAAM:** I think an answer should span minimum four and maximum six pages. But, please remember that the only key is quality, not quantity, of the answer that matters most in attempting a question in papers of a competitive examination. So, no one can fix the word limit for an answer. Only with relevant material and research-based discussion, one can get the maximum score.

**JWT: How one should choose Optional Subjects?**

**DAAM:** Three things should be kept in mind while choosing optional subjects: academic background, personal interest in the subject and past papers. Despite the fact that I was a student of Medical Science, I opted for Islamic History and Sindhi Literature as optional subjects on the basis of my interest. Alhamdulillah, in these subjects, I got excellent marks and stood among toppers. And, if you have a background in a subject, it is always a plus point.

**JWT: Who deserves the credit for your success?**

**DAAM:** The credit for my success goes to my family.



### My Interview Experience

The interview started with questions related to my family, district profile and academic background. After that, the panellists asked different questions on national and international issues. One panellist also asked me to recite some verses of Sindhi poets. Overall, the interview went very well.

During difficult times, my parents stood by me. I still remember that in CSS-2015 exam, I got 545 marks in

written but could not secure aggregate marks required to appear in the interview. I was disappointed but my parents motivated me a lot. Similarly, in CCE 2013 (Revised), I was not allocated despite passing both written and interview parts of the exam. Moreover, I am thankful to the Almighty Allah who bestowed on me this success. The credit goes also to my teachers, especially Sir Mohammad Ali Ghoti, Sir Haroon Khan, Sir Imtiaz Mangi and my friends Awais Ahmed Juno and Rashid Ali Roongho. I am highly indebted to them for their continuous support in this journey. Moreover, I will pay my gratitude to my mother who always prayed for me and kept motivating me to achieve this milestone.

**JWT: As interviewers usually grill the interview candidates, how did you manage the situation?**

**DAAM:** Not all the time the interviewers grill the candidates. In my first attempt, that is, Revised CCE-2013, I was grilled to some extent but in second attempt, all went very smooth. I tried to remain calm and answer the questions to the point. The overall response of the panellists was very encouraging. ■

### Rapid Fire

Your inspiration	My Family, especially my father Ghulam Mustafa
Attempts	02
Schooling medium	Sindhi
Your qualification	PhD, MPhil, Pharm. D
Alma mater(s)	Sindh University Jamshoro and Gomal University Dera Ismail Khan
Your study schedule	5-7 hours a day
Your sources	Recommended books, research articles, newspapers, JWT and some national and international magazines
Your strengths	Determination to never give up, passion for success, and patience to face challenges
Hobbies & activities	Watching movies, Travelling and reading books
Fave personality	Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah
Fave book	The Pleasures of Philosophy by Will Durant
Fave quote	"To speak ill of others is a dishonest way of praising ourselves ... let us be above such transparent egotism." — Will Durant
Secret of your success	Faith in Allah and Determination to strive hard
Your role model	My father



# Global Economy is on the

## BRINK OF COLLAPSE

### Outline

#### 1) Introduction

"Today we are confronted with a crisis like no other, we anticipate the worst economic fallout since the Great Depression."

Kristalina Georgieva, the head of the International Monetary Fund April 2020.

#### 2) Oxfam Report

##### 2.1) Poverty forecasting

#### 3) Comparison of current economic crisis with historical economic crisis

##### 3.1) Great Depression 1930 and Current Covid-19

##### 3.2) Financial Crisis 2008 and Comparison with Covid-19

#### 4) Unpredictable nature of world economy

##### 4.1) World Trade Organization (WTO)

##### 4.2) International Monetary Fund (IMF)

##### 4.3) Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)

##### 4.4) Current negative situation of global economy

#### 5) Covid-19

##### 5.1) Challenge for policy makers of the world

##### 5.2) Long-term virus effect

#### 6) Global economies

##### 6.1) Trade-dependent countries

##### 6.2) Past high economic predictions are getting down

##### 6.3) Value of dollar

##### 6.4) Oil prices

#### 7) Social implications

##### 7.1) Public is self-quarantined

##### 7.2) Drop in business

##### 7.3) Decline in tourism

#### 8) Decline in International Trade

#### 9) Implications for Pakistan

#### 10) Recommendations

#### 11) Conclusion



Saadia Razvan

"Today we are confronted with a crisis like no other, we anticipate the worst economic fallout since the Great Depression."

Kristalina Georgieva, the head of the International Monetary Fund (April 2020)

The world economy is facing its most severe challenge of the postwar period. Economic activity, financial markets and private sector confidence are all collapsing. This time, no economy is immune, eliminating the option of an export-driven recovery for any country. The economic collapse has increased deflationary and financial risks in the advanced economies. Other emerging market economies are heading for a traumatic period. Many have decrepit healthcare systems, congested urban population centres, and high levels of poverty, leaving little room for manoeuvre between controlling the pandemic and sliding into economic disaster. Making matters worse, some of these economies are also having to cope with sudden stops of capital inflows, depreciating currencies, and a lack of external demand for their exports. Others face formidable debt loads that are only growing harder to finance. The collapse has been instantaneous, swifter than during the Great Depression. The shock to the global economy from Covid-19 has been faster and more severe than the 2008 global financial crisis and even the Great Depression of 1930.

Coronavirus could push half a billion people into poverty, Oxfam warns. An Oxfam report published before virtual meetings of finance ministers of the G20 group of leading developed and developing nations, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, said by the time the pandemic was over, half of the world's population of 7.8 billion people could be living in poverty.

The research conducted by King's College London and the Australian National University said that a 20% drop in income as a result of a recession caused by Covid-19 would push an additional 548 million people below \$5.50 a day, one of the World Bank's definitions of poverty.

Furthermore José María Vera, Oxfam's International



## EXAM PACK

interim executive director stated: "For poor people in poor countries who are already struggling to survive, there are almost no safety nets."

As for as global economy is concerned, Brookings financial times tracking index reported that the global economy was facing the worst collapse since the Second World War as coronavirus began to strike in March, well before the height of the crisis.

For instance, the worldwide economic downturn that began in 1929 and lasted until about 1939. It was the longest and most severe depression ever experienced by the industrialized Western world. Although the Depression originated in the United States, it resulted in drastic declines in output, severe unemployment, and acute deflation in almost every country on the globe. Likewise, the fundamental cause of the Great Depression in the United States was a decline in spending (sometimes referred to as aggregate demand), and the coronavirus pandemic (Covid-19) is also resulting in deflation as people are quarantined and markets are closed like never before. Thus, this pandemic may cause a collapse of the global economy worse than any other past crisis.

Like it has been said Covid-19 spares neither Leave nor Remain, neither Imam nor Chinese doctor, and respects no national border.

Furthermore, sharp declines in the stock market and broader financial sector turbulence; interest rate cuts and large-scale Federal Reserve intervention; and discussions of massive government stimulus packages have led some observers to compare the current market reaction to that experienced a little over a decade ago. There are similarities and important differences between the current economic crisis and the global financial crisis of 2008-09. Foremost, the earlier crisis was rooted in structural weakness in the US financial sector. Following the burst of the US housing bubble, it became impossible for firms to identify demand and hold inventories across many sectors (construction, retail, etc.). This led to massive oversupply and sharp retail

losses which extended to other sectors of the US economy, and eventually the global economy.

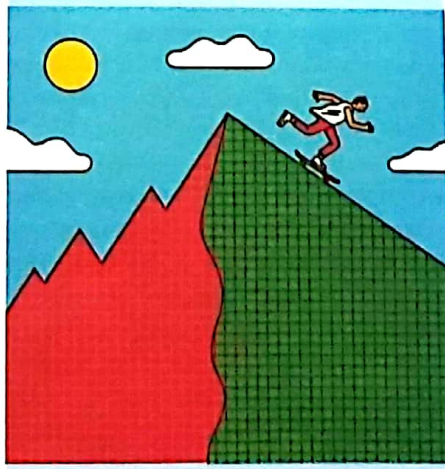
As Jason Furman, who served as deputy director of the National Economic Council during the financial crisis, stated: "This isn't a financial crisis where, if you can stop the panic, you can unfreeze the economy. Here, there's a deadly germ out there and you don't want to go near it for your sake and your community's sake. There's only one equilibrium: It's economic inactivity until the danger passes."

Unlike the 2008 crisis, the current crisis began as a supply shock. As the global economy has become more interdependent in recent decades, most products are produced as part of a global value chain (GVC), where an item such as a car or mobile device consists of parts manufactured all over the world, and involving multiple border crossings before final assembly. The earliest implications of the current crisis came in January 2020 as plant closures in China and other parts of Asia led to interruptions in the supply chain and concerns about dwindling inventories.

Furthermore, Brookings institution stated:

"Unlike the 2008-09 crisis that was triggered by liquidity shortages in financial markets, the crisis now unfolding involves more fundamental solvency issues for many firms and industries beyond finance."

Thus, contrary to the 2008 crisis response, which involved liquidity and solvency-related policy measures to get people spending again, the current crisis did not start as a financial crisis,



but could evolve into one if a recovery in economic activity is delayed.

According to an April 8, 2020, forecast by the World Trade Organization, global trade volumes are projected to decline between 13% and 32% in 2020 as a result of the economic impact of Covid-19. The WTO argues that the wide range in the forecast represents the high degree of uncertainty concerning the length and economic impact of the pandemic and that the actual economic outcome could be outside this range, both higher and lower.

Kristalina Georgieva, the head of the IMF stated:

"Emerging markets and low-income nations across Africa, Latin America, and much of Asia are at high risk. With weaker health systems to begin with, many face the dreadful challenge of fighting the virus in densely populated cities and poverty-stricken slums where



social distancing is hardly an option."

Just three months ago, the IMF was predicting that the global economy would grow by 3.3% this year, but Georgieva said:

"Covid-19 has disrupted our social and economic order at lightning speed and on a scale that we have not seen in living memory. The virus is causing tragic loss of life, and the lockdown needed to fight it has affected billions of people." Since the Covid-19 outbreak was first diagnosed, it has spread to over 190 countries. The pandemic is having a noticeable impact on global economic growth. Estimates so far indicate the virus could trim global economic growth by at least 0.5% to 1.5%, but could rise to 2.0% per month if current conditions persist. Global trade could fall by 13% to 32%, depending on the depth and extent of the global economic downturn. The full impact



will not be known until the effects of the pandemic peak.

On March 23, 2020, OECD Secretary General, Angel Gurría, stated:

"The sheer magnitude of the current shock introduces an unprecedented complexity to economic forecasting. The OECD Interim Economic Outlook, released on March 2, 2020, made a first attempt to take stock of the likely impact of Covid-19 on global growth, but it now looks like we have already moved well beyond even the more severe scenario envisaged the pandemic has also set in motion a major economic crisis that will burden our societies for years to come." Moreover, before the Covid-19 outbreak, the global economy was struggling to regain a broad-based recovery as a result of the lingering impact of growing trade protectionism, trade disputes among major trading partners, falling commodity and energy prices, and economic uncertainties in Europe over the impact of the UK withdrawal from the European Union. In this environment, Covid-19 could have an outsized impact. While the level of economic effects will eventually become clearer, the response to the pandemic could have a significant and enduring impact on the way businesses organize their work forces, global supply chains, and how governments respond to a global health crisis.

Besides, the challenge for policymakers has been one of implementing targeted policies that address this crisis. If the economic effects of the pandemic continue to grow, policymakers are likely to give more weight to policies that address the immediate economic effects at the expense of longer-term considerations. Initially, many policymakers had felt constrained in their ability to respond to the crisis as a result of limited flexibility for monetary and fiscal support within conventional standards, given the broad-based synchronized slowdown in global economic growth, especially in manufacturing and trade that had developed prior to the virus outbreak. Initially, the economic effects of the virus were expected to be short-term

supply issues as factory output fell because workers were quarantined to reduce the spread of the virus through social interaction. The drop in economic activity, initially in China, has had international repercussions as firms experienced delays in supplies of intermediate and finished goods through supply chains. Concerns have grown, however, that the virus-related supply shock is creating more prolonged and wide-ranging demand shocks as reduced activity by consumers and businesses lead to a lower rate of economic growth.

Additionally, countries highly dependent on trade—Canada, Germany, Italy, Japan, Mexico and South Korea—and commodity exporters are now projected to be the most negatively affected by the slowdown in economic activity

Monetary Fund (IMF) to be slightly more positive than in 2019. This outlook was based on progress being made in US-China trade talks that were expected to roll back some tariffs and an increase in India's rate of growth. Growth rates in Latin America and the Middle East were also projected to be positive in 2020. These projections likely will be revised downward due to the slowdown in global trade associated with Covid-19, lower energy and commodity prices, an increase in the foreign exchange value of the dollar, and other secondary effects that could curtail growth. Commodity-exporting countries, in particular, will experience a greater slowdown in growth than forecasted in earlier projections as a result of a slowdown on trade with China and lower commodity prices.

In a broader perspective, the combined



associated with the virus. In addition, travel bans and quarantines are taking a heavy economic toll on a broad range of countries.

The OECD notes that production declines in China have spillover effects around the world given China's role in producing computers, electronics, pharmaceuticals and transport equipment, and as a primary source of demand for many commodities.

Across Asia, some forecasters argue that recent data indicate that Japan, South Korea, Thailand, the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia and Vietnam could experience an economic recession in 2020. In early January 2020, before the Covid-19 outbreak, economic growth in developing economies as a whole was projected by the International

impact of Covid-19, an increase in the value of the dollar, and an oil price war between Saudi Arabia and Russia are hitting developing and emerging economies hard. Not all of these countries have the resources or policy flexibility to respond effectively. According to figures compiled by the Institute for International Finance (IIF), cumulative capital outflows from developing countries since January 2020 are double the level experienced during the 2008-09 crisis and substantially higher than recent market events.

Generally speaking, public concerns over the spread of the virus have led to self-quarantines, reductions in airline and cruise liner travel. School closures are affecting 1.5 billion children



## EXAM PACK

worldwide, challenging parental leave policies. Other countries are limiting the size of public gatherings. Some businesses are considering new approaches to managing their workforces and work methods. These techniques build on, or in some places replace, such standard techniques as self-quarantines and travel bans. Microsoft and Amazon instructed all of their Seattle-based employees to work from home until the end of March 2020. Charles Dumas, chief economist at TS Lombard, an investment research firm in London, said: "The psychology won't just bounce back. People have had a real shock. The recovery will be slow, and certain behaviour patterns are going to change, if not forever, at least for a long while." For example, the drop in business and tourist travel is causing a sharp drop in

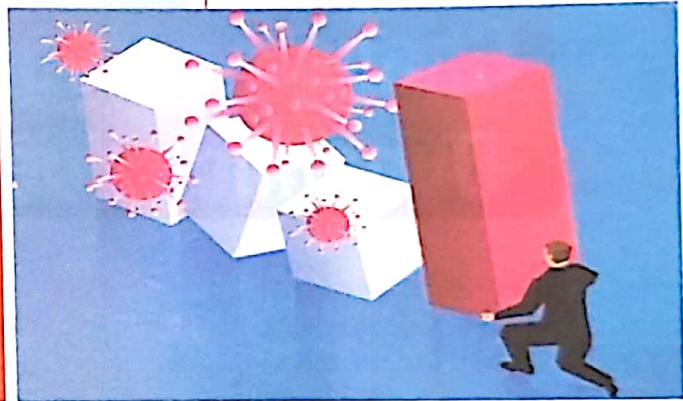
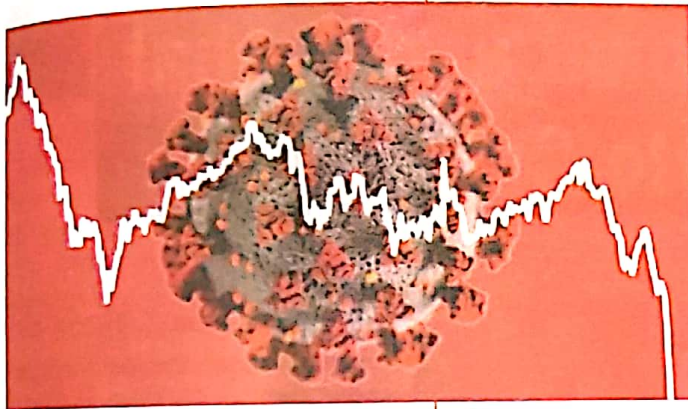
other OPEC (Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries) members collectively to reduce output by 1.5 million barrels a day to raise market prices. US shale oil producers, who are not represented by OPEC, support the move to raise prices. Russia's unwillingness to agree to output reductions added to other downward pressures on oil prices and caused Saudi Arabia to engage in a price war with Russia that has driven oil prices below \$25 per barrel at times, half the estimated \$50 per barrel break-even point for most oil producing countries. Rising oil supplies and falling demand are combining to create an estimated surplus of 25 million barrels a day and could soon overwhelm storage capacity and challenge the viability of US shale oil production.

As the developed nations of the world

infected still continues to aggressively increase. The effect of Covid-19 remains uncertain. In a case such as this, when continued volatility can be expected, it is wise to employ strategies that enhance returns, whether the market shifts violently up or down. To overcome this challenge, multilateral institutions need to come forward and fight this pandemic through a collective and collaborative response.

As the coronavirus crisis has unfolded, there has thus far been a lamentable absence of global leadership. History will judge the more prosperous nations harshly if they fail to act decisively to help the world's poor in this hour of need.

To sum up, it may be said that the global economy is on the verge of collapse. Besides, in the near-term, the impact of the coronavirus seems long-



scheduled airline flights. Industry experts estimate that many airlines will be in bankruptcy by May 2020 under current conditions as a result of travel restrictions imposed by a growing number of countries.

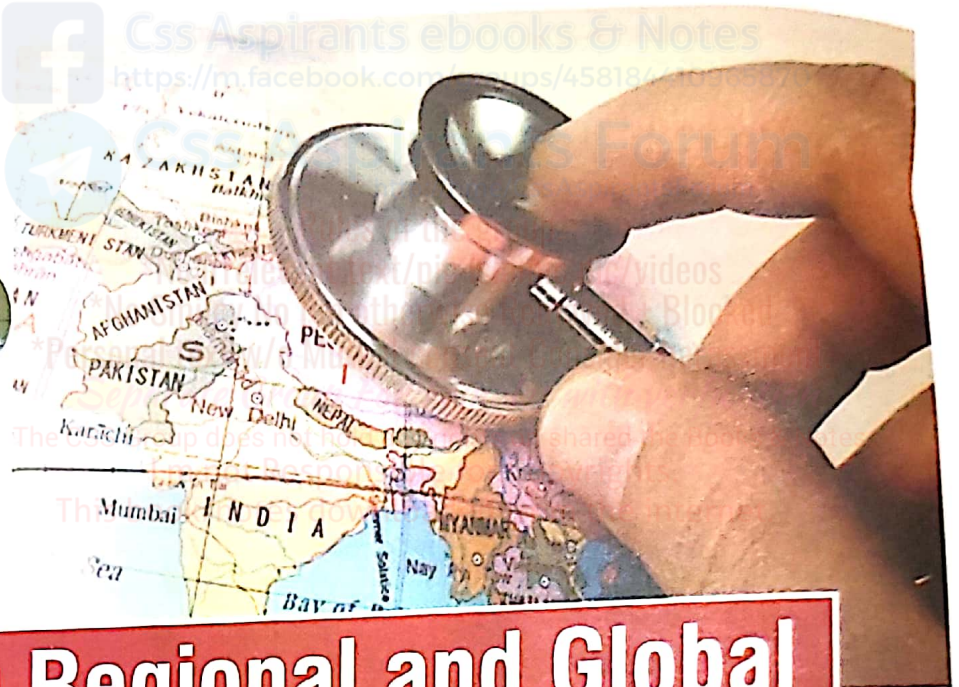
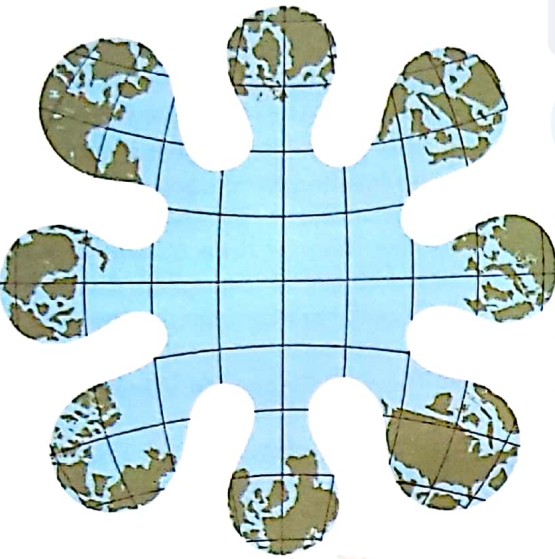
In the same way, the loss of Chinese tourists is another economic blow to countries in Asia and elsewhere that have benefitted from the growing market for Chinese tourists and the stimulus such tourism has provided. The decline in industrial activity has reduced demand for energy products such as crude oil, causing prices to drop sharply, which negatively affects energy producers, renewable energy producers, and electric vehicle manufacturers, but generally is positive for consumers and businesses. Moreover, Saudi Arabia is pushing

are facing the full brunt of the disease, developing countries are yet to arrive at the point where they are overwhelmed. Pakistan is on the brink and there is a tight rope in front of a weak economy. The year ahead is perhaps the most formidable challenge the country has faced, and one that will require resilience, competence and discipline, the other side of the equation, if we fail, is worse than our darkest nightmares. According to PIDE (Pakistan Institute of Development Economics), there will be losses of jobs in the millions, particularly for semi-skilled and daily wage earners. Around 2.4% of the Annual GDP will be lost due to Covid-19, which is enough to send the country into a spiralling recession. While people all over the world remain quarantined, the number of those

lasting and more intensive than assumed in the projections. In the event if virus outbreaks spread more widely in the Asia-Pacific region or the major advanced economies in the northern hemisphere, the adverse effects on global growth and trade will be much worse and more widespread. As Kenneth S. Rogoff, a Harvard economist and co-author of a history of financial crises, "This Time Is Different: Eight Centuries of Financial Folly" said: "I feel like the 2008 financial crisis was just a dry run for this. This is already shaping up as the deepest dive on record for the global economy for over 100 years. Everything depends on how long it lasts, but if this goes on for a long time, it's certainly going to be the mother of all financial crises." ■



## 1<sup>st</sup> JWT Current Affairs Article Competition



# Changing Regional and Global Dynamics due to Coronavirus



Global orders have a tendency to change gradually at first and then all at once; thanks to globalization and related

effects. The question on the credibility of the global institutions, USA, being a global superpower, and the ideas such as 'end of history' thesis are under threat. Meanwhile, China as the first country to tackle the menace of Covid-19 has proved that it is not only democracy that ensures the public well-being and safety domestically and globally, but authoritarianism can also do it in a better way. Is this a resurgence of an alternative political ideology? Is the world moving towards yet another nationalism? Do we still need super-sonic missile systems and nuclear weapons? Is Covid-19 more harmful

Humanity has never before confronted a crisis quite like Covid-19, one that has concurrently challenged both the limits of public health systems everywhere and the ability of countries to work together on a shared challenge of transnational security threats. And while its geopolitical, geo-economic and geostrategic implications are drastically changing the world order, the cradle of liberalism—USA—has done nothing so far to save the dying spirit of globalism.

Waqas Zulfikar Sangi

than the looming threats of climate change? Let's analyze the impacts of Covid-19 on global power dynamics.

### Globalization: an end or more interdependency?

The novel coronavirus is appearing to be an enormous stress test for globalization. As serious supply chains break down, and nations reserve medical supplies for domestic use only and air blockade to preserve territorial and national integrity, the crisis is demanding a reassessment of the interconnected global economy. Not only has globalization allowed for the rapid spread of contagious disease, but it has also fostered deep interdependence between private companies and nations making the world more vulnerable to the virus [as it was the

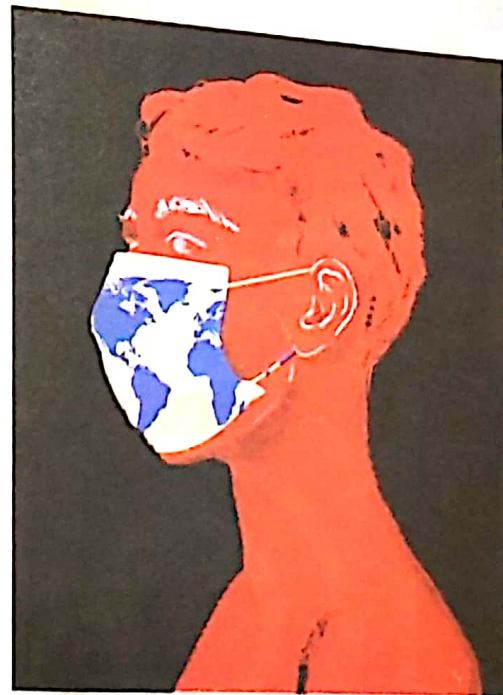
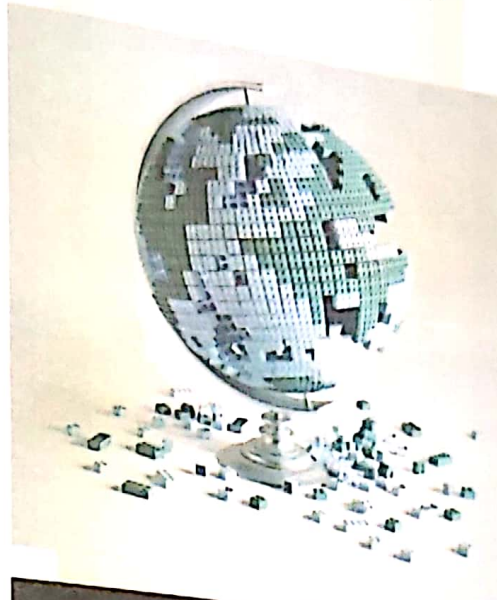


Chinese cheap labour that frequently travelled all around the world under the vision of Xi Jinping's new globalization—BRI. However, it is also the same globalization that has been saving the world. For instance, China under its mask diplomacy is filling the power vacuum of the leading super-powers. Globalization has now become an inevitable phenomenon. The only way to save the Earth is to learn the art of living together.

### USA: a wounded tiger in search of global credibility

Throughout its history, the United States has had visionary, charismatic leadership at the time of great crises: George Washington during the Revolution and the American War of Independence, Abraham Lincoln during the Civil War, Franklin D. Roosevelt during the Great Depression and World War II, Richard Nixon during the communist Soviet's resurgence with his containment policy and Eisenhower's 'Atom for Peace' initiative for the peaceful use of nuclear energy. Nonetheless, Trump, due to his conservative, polarized and racist ideology, unfortunately, has not proved himself to be anywhere close to such a leader. The 'America First' slogan has made the USA a wounded tiger that isn't fit to protect the jungle anymore. Covid-19 has further cemented the argument that the populism leads to a catastrophic state of affairs. Trump's negligence towards the pandemic has made the United States a country with maximum deaths, leaving even Italy behind. Although US foreign policy now under Trump is nationalism-oriented, yet it is ready to go to any means to stop the rise of China. When the entire world is busy tackling the virus; Trump is pronouncing it as 'just another flu' and

now it is facing the music. USA must come out of Iran-, and North Korea-phobia, and it is high time USA prioritized the non-traditional security threats in its international agenda or else the world would soon lose its faith in the USA's credibility.



### China: the new sphere of influence

Although China hid the crisis from the world in its critical early days, yet it has again emerged from the ashes to play its responsible role on the world stage. China's mask diplomacy is filling the holes left by the USA

and, consequently, helping China to mould globalization, soft power and public opinion in its favour. China is rising peacefully; it has been rising according to its strategic culture—silently, and cooperatively. Xi's other achievement after neutralizing Hong Kong protests is the saving of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) in the pandemic crisis. He once again is using the notion of civilization-state and nationalism to stay in power. Covid-19 is helping China to alter the liberal world order as 'Confucian World Order'. Citizens of Italy have replaced the EU flag with China's red flag; the region which was once considered 'kingdom of globalism and capitalism' is now influenced by the 'reds'. The containment policy seems to be against the USA now. Covid-19 did no harm to BRI, Chinese soft power, regionalism and neoliberalism, instead it has further consolidated President Xi's thought.

### Nationalism versus the globalism: let the fight begin!

The Covid-19 has unleashed a debate: whether the world needs nationalism or globalism? The answer is ambiguous. But one thing is for sure, the world would surely go for regionalism and nationalism. The political leaders, due to their inefficiency, have learned the art of blaming abstract globalization and immigration inflow towards their respective countries. Nonetheless, the pandemic is now further helping them to support their authoritative notion of sealing the borders. However, leaders around the world must understand that the spirit of globalism could only save them from the curse of coronavirus and other non-traditional security threats.



### **Technology: a good servant, and a bad master**

The emergence of artificial intelligence has changed the course of almost everything. The 21st century appears to be a competing arena for 'data' which could be used as a tool for staying in power. The algorithms would be used to maintain the personal health statics, record, surveillance of all the individuals over the cost of healthy life. And the same data would be manipulated by the strongmen for extending their power base. Gone are the days when authoritarians used to have millions to spy in the city, social media has made it easy for them. The global agenda for using technology as a blessing is missing, making it vulnerable to power-mongers. Covid-19 is undoubtedly going to help them all.

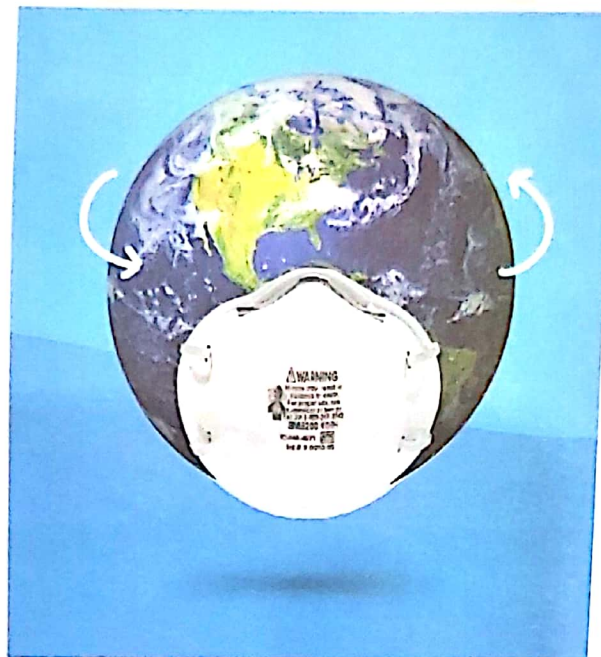
### **Fake news and propaganda: controlling minds is controlling the world**

Covid-19 has also helped fake news to strengthen its roots to distort the image of truth. TV channels are busy in telecasting fake news about the virus outbreak. The conspiracy theories in such times when humanity is grappling for its survival could bring the world on the verge of another global war. Soon the pandemic is going to be over but the culture of lie and fake news is going to stay with us.

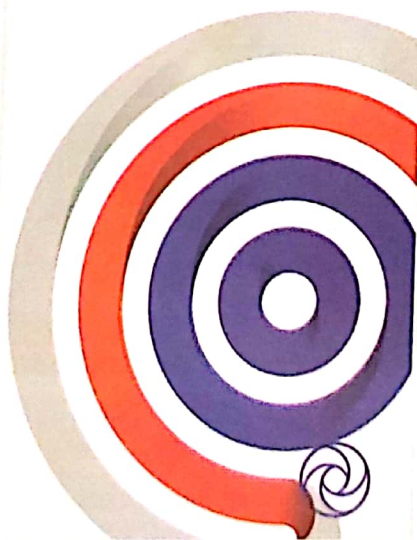
### **The Third World countries: money makes the mare go!**

Covid-19 would now work as an eye-opener for the poor nations. The biggest challenge here is to China to help its fellow BRI countries and regional key players of Asia such as Pakistan, India and Bangladesh to materialize its dream of 'Asia for Asians'. The war-torn regions are

now on the biggest hit of the virus. It was only Pakistan that agreed to help Afghanistan when even the USA and India abandoned it. Similarly, the Palestinians' responsibility lies upon



Israel's shoulders, Syria's on Russia and Turkey, Iraq's on Iran, and Africa in the sphere of influence of China. This might be the biggest test of their temperament and spirit of a collective good. No country has, however,



emerged as victorious in this game of morality.

### **Failing global institutions: the feeble organizations amid the geopolitical rivalry**

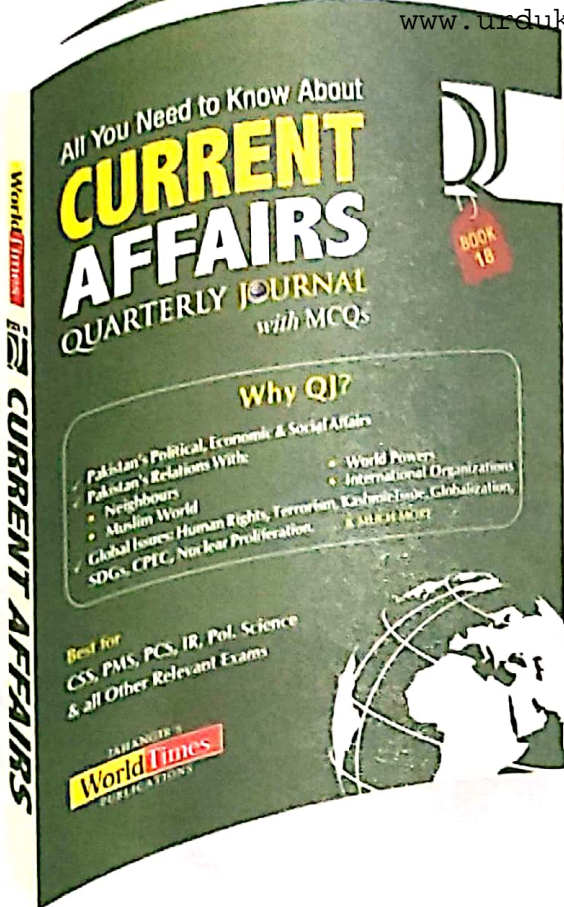
The United Nations is silent and politically biased under Antonio's leadership. The World Trade Organization (WTO) hasn't been able to reduce the tariff barriers on the medical items. World Health Organization (WHO) presents a useful global plane but lacks a global consensus. European Union (EU) faces existential threats and has altered the essence of its very foundation by closing borders to its neighbours for the first time in generations. The geopolitical rivalry has made global organizations weak and toothless. The only country responsible for this entire mess in the global arena is the USA. First the Jerusalem episode, then the maximum pressure policy on Iran, covert

operation to kill Qassem Soleimani- the former commander-in-chief of the Iranian Al-Quds force, hasty withdrawal from the war-torn areas and now the global indifference towards the non-traditional security threats. In the backdrop of all this chaos, the institutions must work on their financial systems so as to get rid of biased approach and dictation of a single hegemonic player.

### **Not too late: humanity would survive**

The world in these crucial times has to make a firm decision: staying with democracy or authoritarianism? Believing in global institutions or dismantling them all? Playing global responsible role or upholding the notion of nationalism? Ending trade barriers on medicines or adopting protectionist trade policies at the expense of their local industry? Every decision taken today would shape our future for generations to come. ■





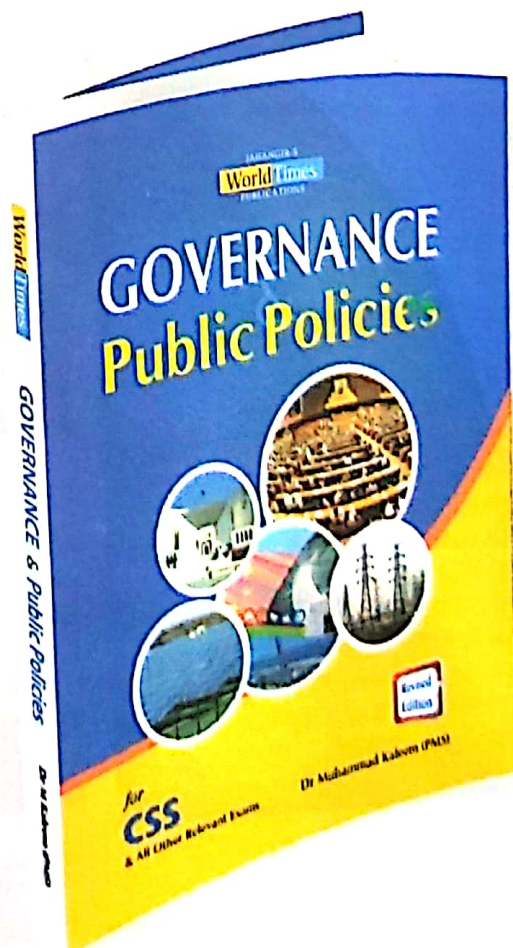
## HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Dynastic Politics Must be Over
- ★ Time to Address Our Internal Weaknesses
- ★ Combating Climate Change in Pakistan
- ★ Kamyab Naujawan Programme
- ★ Kashmir Issue
- ★ Kartarpur Corridor Project
- ★ An Overview of Pak-China Relations
- ★ The Future of Pak-US Ties
- ★ FATF's Policy Challenges & Pakistan
- ★ Nuclear Proliferation and Nuclear Security
- ★ Millennium Development Goals, Current Status
- ★ Middle East Crisis
- ... & much more

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## HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Elements of Good Governance
- ★ Sehat Sahulat Programme
- ★ Economic and Financial Policies
- ★ Why is Accountability Important to Governance?
- ★ Negative Connotation of Bureaucracy
- ★ Public Policy Formulation and Implementation
- ★ Multi-Level Governance in Pakistan
- ★ Federalism, Devolution & Decentralization
- ★ Role of Citizens in Governance
- ★ Good Governance in Islam
- ★ Jinnah's Vision of Pakistan
- ... & much more

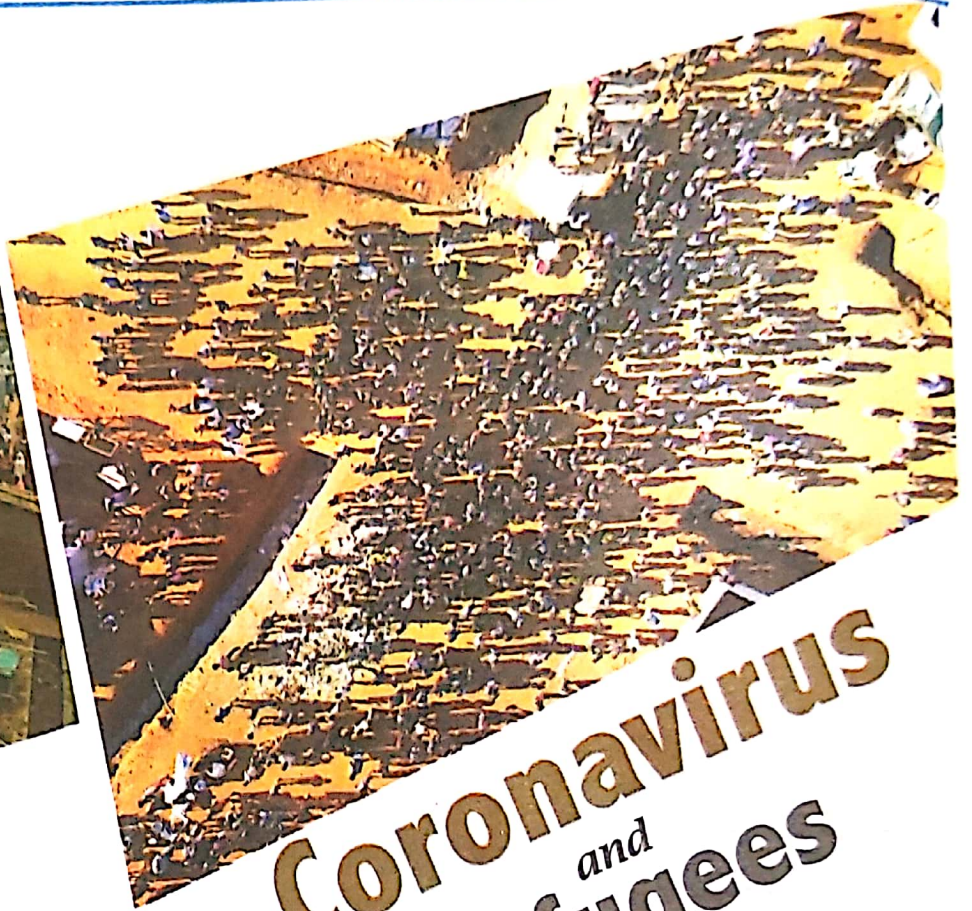
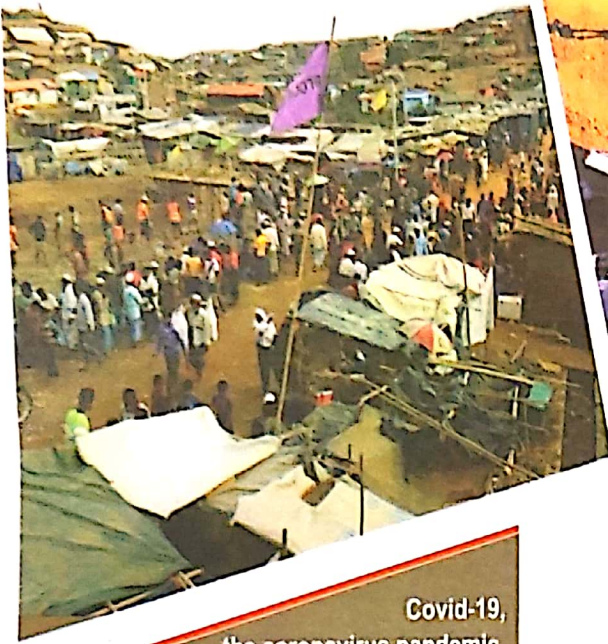




www.urdukutabkhanap.blogspot.com

"The core principles of refugee protection are being put to test – but people who are forced to flee conflict and persecution should not be denied safety and protection on the pretext, or even as a side effect, of responding to the virus ... Securing public health and protecting refugees are not mutually exclusive. This is not a dilemma. We have to do both. Long-recognized refugee laws can be respected even as governments adopt stringent measures to protect public health, including at borders."

— Filippo Grandi, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees



# Coronavirus and Refugees

## Far from home and dodging the pandemic

Covid-19, the coronavirus pandemic, endangers everyone on the planet — including refugees and other people displaced by conflict or persecution. UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Filippo Grandi, has rightly pointed out this fact by saying, "If ever we needed reminding that we live in an interconnected world, the novel coronavirus has brought that home." These words aptly depict what the world has been experiencing over the last few months with adverse impact of the coronavirus disease which knows no borders, no language barriers; it threatens everyone on this planet. And it can only be tackled if we all, as one global community, work together and demonstrate solidarity. Because what this global coronavirus outbreak has undeniably demonstrated, is that the health of every person is linked to the health of the most marginalized and vulnerable members of a society. And these members often include refugees, stateless people and internally-displaced people.



Hassaan Bin Zubair

The Covid-19 pandemic is affecting the lives of billions of people across the world. Globally, measures to stop its spread have been drastic: businesses have shuttered, strict travel restrictions have been imposed, social distancing measures have been taken, and public and private hygiene has been encouraged. People have been advised to stock up on supplies and start working from home, where possible. The hope is that these measures will slow the spread of Covid-19, saving thousands, potentially millions, of lives. Yet for many people, including the hundreds of thousands of refugees in Southeast Asia, it is simply not possible to follow these recommendations and measures. Refugee camps across Africa, the Middle East and Asia are packed with traumatized and undernourished people with limited access to healthcare and basic sanitation, making them perfect breeding grounds for contagion. Extended families jam into tarpaulin shelters with mud floors. Food, water and soap are often lacking. Illnesses, from hacking coughs to deadly



## Refugees in Camps: A Snapshot

This is how things are in some of the most populated camps in different parts of the world.

### 1. Greek Islands

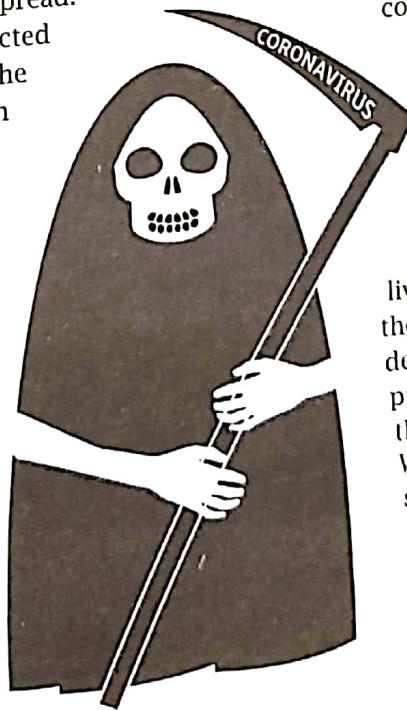
In Greece, there are more than 40,000 refugees and migrants on its islands with 11,000 children, and they are living in overcrowded refugee camps which are potentially susceptible to the spread of infectious diseases like Covid-19.

The people living in the refugee centres on the Greek islands of Lesbos, Samos, Chios, Leros and Kos account for almost 40,000 people while Moria has over 19,000. And, these are all centres where people live crammed and have no chance of social distancing as the installations on the islands are six times over capacity.

### 2. Bangladesh

In Bangladesh, refugees in the camp in Cox's Bazar province face a lack of access to water and sanitation. Furthermore, if they want to go to the toilet or wash their hands, refugees in the camp need to wait for a long time in long queues which means a violation of social distancing. The water point is located in a place where refugees might succumb to Covid-19 and all sanitary products including soap are in short supply. Even before the pandemic, the residents of the camp were only able to receive one small free bar of soap a month. Authorities in Bangladesh began a lockdown

diseases, go untreated, facilitating their spread. The coronavirus, which has already infected hundreds of thousands of people around the globe, could rip through these camps with devastating speed and mortality. Although our collective concerns, presently, are first and foremost for people who are at greater risk of the coronavirus disease (Covid-19); however, we must not forget that this pandemic may also exacerbate the vulnerabilities of 272 million international migrants worldwide—3.5 percent of global population. Persons displaced internally and across borders are particularly at risk. Some of the most devastating consequences of coronavirus will be in the developing world. Among the most vulnerable are refugees, 85%



in all 34 Rohingya refugee settlements in the country's southern district of Cox's Bazar as part of its effort to contain the coronavirus pandemic.

### 3. Lebanon

Since Lebanon registered its first case of Covid-19 on February 21, the country's refugee camps where living conditions are dire, have come under a spotlight. Refugees there don't have access to masks, medical supplies or clean water. The overall water shortage robs them of the most important anti-coronavirus precaution — hand washing — which has become a luxury for refugees.

### 4. Northern Syria

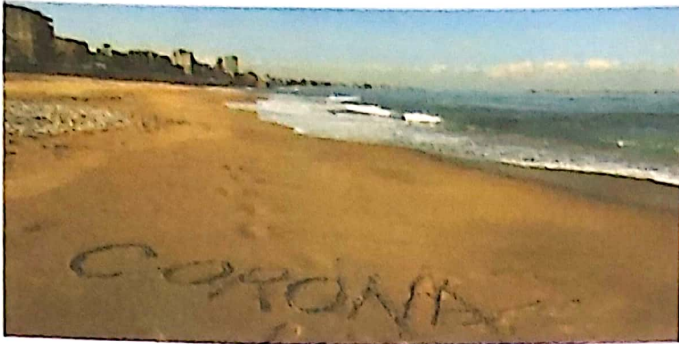
Syrian refugees living in Turkey are able to rely on Turkey's free healthcare system, but the ones on the other side of the border are living in constant danger. The Assad regime has bombed at least 70 hospitals in the region. Syrians in the area are not fully equipped to deal with a large-scale outbreak of the virus. Experts fear that if the virus were to spread there, at least 100,000 people would need to go into intensive care while it can only handle 200 cases.

### 5. India

In India's capital New Delhi, Rohingya refugees are in danger because of the lack of support from India's Hindu nationalist Modi government as it considers Rohingya Muslim refugees 'illegal immigrants'. The government has also framed them as a security threat.

of whom live in low and middle-income countries. Governments are increasingly introducing measures, including prohibitions of entry of nationals from other countries, to 'flatten the curve'. These measures are complemented by the closure of borders as well as the temporary suspension of labour migration. Migrants living in camps at the doorstep of Europe or the United States face the possibility of a devastating virus outbreak given their proximity to highly-affected countries and their cramped living conditions. Within refugee camps, self-isolation and social distancing to prevent spread of the virus are nearly impossible to implement, and people are anxious amid the spread of misinformation. Meanwhile, many international staff from non-





governmental organisations (NGOs) and the UN have been pulled out of refugee camps. Other international humanitarian organisations have significantly reduced their capacity and funding is stretched to breaking point or diverted.

Hence, not only the lives of migrants in camps are at stake in most affected regions, but it will also endanger lives of many in countries that host displaced persons, e.g. Jordan, Lebanon, Syria or Bangladesh. Panic is gripping the world's largest refugee camp in southern Bangladesh, where about one million Rohingya refugees from Myanmar are living under a state-imposed internet blackout in densely-packed and squalid conditions. Social distancing and maintaining proper hygiene are nearly impossible when up to a dozen people share a single small shelter, while there are limited water and sanitary supplies. Access to health services and information are also severely curtailed, and any outbreak in the camps will surely have a devastating impact. Resettlement is even more remote as the International Organization for Migration and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees have been forced to temporarily suspend refugees' resettlement travels due to states' mobility restrictions and concerns over exposing refugees to Covid-19. Coronavirus is also exacerbating the vulnerabilities of migrant workers. These workers are especially at risk in the Gulf region, as most of them live in highly-populated migrant labour camps with insufficient health facilities. Besides, irregular migrants detained administratively in cramped facilities are also prone to getting infected. A longer-term impact of Covid-19 may be on the future of migrants' integration and social cohesion.

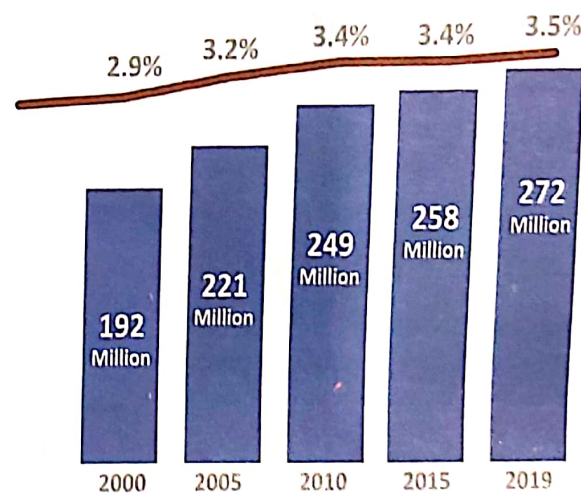
Evidence of severe economic impacts of

the Covid-19 pandemic on refugees and internally-displaced people is growing. Across the Middle East and North Africa, UNHCR says that it had received over 350,000 calls for refugees and IDPs since lockdowns and other public health measures came into force asking for urgent financial assistance. In Lebanon, over half of the refugees surveyed in late April had lost their livelihoods and 70 percent reported skipping meals. Afghan refugees in Iran are among some two million people who have lost their jobs because of Covid-19. One in four reported that they had been forced to take children out of school. In Latin America, refugees and asylum-seekers working in the informal sector have also lost their income and many are now at risk of homelessness or have already been evicted. <sup>2</sup>

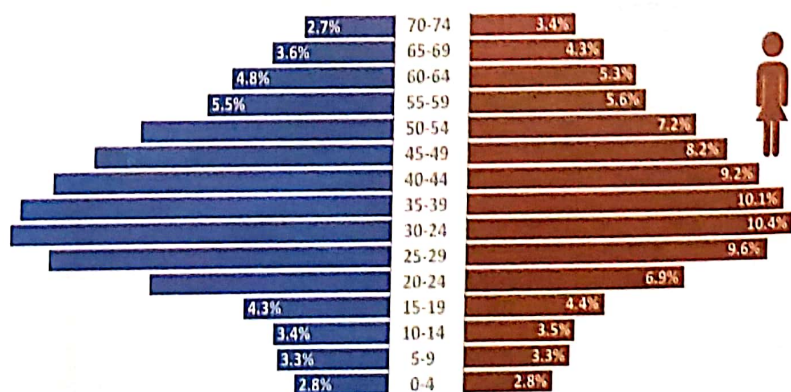
The writer is a  
PhD Scholar (English Literature).  
He can be reached at: hbz77@yahoo.com

## Snapshot of international migrants

The international migrant population globally has increased in size but remained relatively stable as a proportion of the world's population



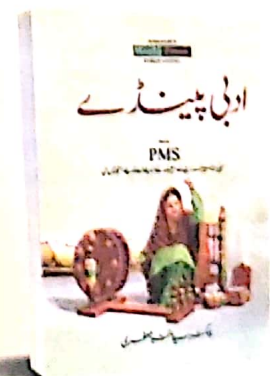
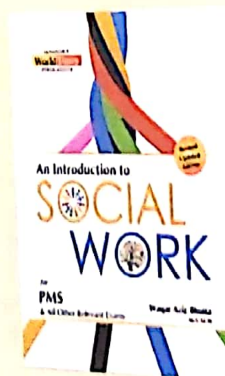
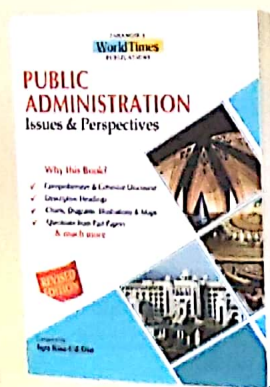
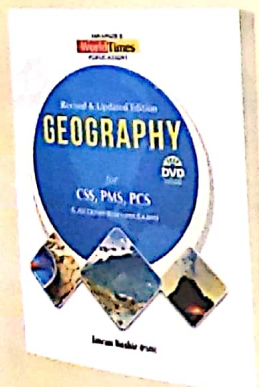
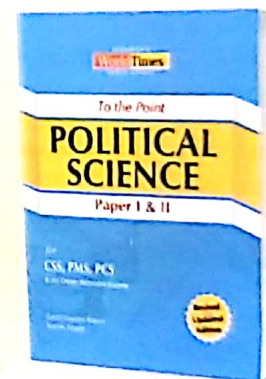
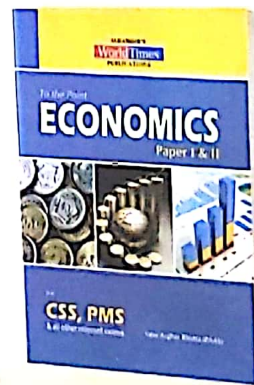
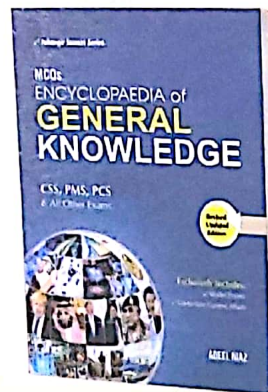
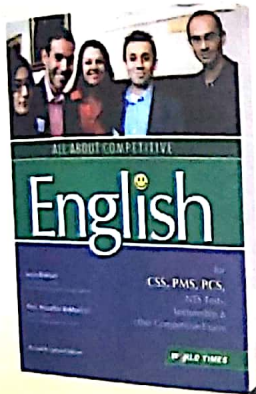
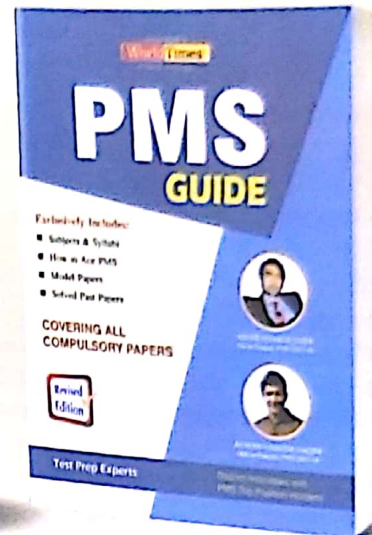
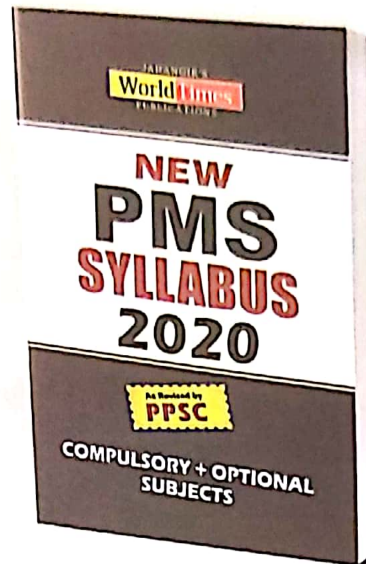
52% of international migrants are male, 48% are female





# Best Books for **PMS** **2020**

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Whether you're composing a blog or a business letter or an email or even writing an essay in a competitive examination, your usual goal is to write clearly and directly to the needs and interests of your readers. These 11 tips should help you sharpen your writing, whether you set out to inform or persuade.

## Quick Tips to Improve Your Writing

### 1. Lead with your main idea

As a general rule, state the main idea of a paragraph in the first sentence—the topic sentence. Don't keep your readers guessing, or they will stop reading. What is the importance of the story to the audience? Hook your readers promptly, so they want to learn more about your topic and will keep reading.

### 2. Vary the length of your sentences

In general, use short sentences to emphasize ideas. Use longer sentences to explain, define or illustrate ideas. If all the sentences in a paragraph are long, the reader will get bogged down. If they're all really short, the prose will sound panicked or staccato. Aim for a natural-sounding flow. If a single sentence is over, say, 25 to 30 words, you could affect reader's comprehension of your meaning. Break up really long sentences into two sentences for clarity.

### 3. Don't bury key words

If you tuck your key words or ideas in the middle of a sentence, the reader may overlook them. To emphasize key words, place them at the beginning or (better yet) at the end of the sentence.

### 4. Vary sentence types and structures

Vary sentence types by including occasional questions and commands. Vary sentence structures by blending simple, compound, and complex sentences. You don't want your prose to sound so repetitive that it puts readers to sleep. Start one sentence with an introductory clause and another with a straight subject. Include simple sentences to break up long, compound or complex sentences.

### 5. Use active verbs and voice

Don't overwork the passive voice or forms of the verb "to be." Instead, use dynamic verbs in the active voice. An example of passive voice: "Three chairs were placed to the left of the podium." Active voice, with a subject doing the action: "A student placed three chairs to the left of the

podium." or Active voice, descriptive: "Three chairs stood to the left of the podium."

### 6. Use specific nouns and verbs

To convey your message clearly and keep your readers engaged, use concrete and specific words that show what you mean. Follow the adage, "Show, don't tell." Give details and use imagery to describe what's happening, especially when it's really important that the reader picture the scene.

### 7. Cut the clutter

When revising your work, eliminate unnecessary words. Watch out for adjective- or adverb-itis, mixed metaphors, and repetition of the same concept or details.

### 8. Read Aloud When You Revise

When revising, you may hear problems of tone, emphasis, word choice, or syntax that you can't see. So, listen up! It might seem silly, but don't skip this step on an important piece of writing.

### 9. Actively edit and proofread

It's easy to overlook errors when reviewing your own work. As you study your final draft, be on the lookout for common trouble spots, such as subject-verb agreement, noun-pronoun agreement, run-on sentences,

and clarity.

### 10. Use a dictionary

When proofreading, don't trust your spell-checker: it can tell you only if a word is a word, not if it's the right word. English has some commonly confused words and common errors that you can learn to spot in a jiffy and easily excise from your writing.

### 11. Know when to break the rules

Breaking grammar and writing rules is acceptable if done for effect. According to George Orwell's "Rules for Writers": "Break any of these rules sooner than say anything outright barbarous." ■



Magazine Desk



## EXAM PACK



# Ratios, Proportions & Variations



Asad Aziz

1. If  $A:B=4:7$  and  $B:C=5:9$ , then  $A:B:C$  is?  
 (a) 20:35:63  
 (b) 35:36:63  
 (c) 30:35:65  
 (d) 25:34:68

2. If  $m:n=3:4$  and  $n:o=8:9$ , then  $m:o$  is?  
 (a) 1:3  
 (b) 3:2  
 (c) 2:3  
 (d) 1:2

3. If 15% of A is the same as 20% of B, then  $A:B$  is?  
 (a) 3:4  
 (b) 4:3  
 (c) 17:16  
 (d) 16:17

4. Which of the following ratios is the greatest?  
 (a) 7:15  
 (b) 15:23  
 (c) 17:25  
 (d) 21:29

5. The ratio of number of boys and girls in a class is 3:2. In the 1st semester exam, 20% of boys and 25% of girls get more than or equal to 90% marks. What percentage of students get less than 90% marks?  
 (a) 56%  
 (b) 70%  
 (c) 78%  
 (d) 80%

6. A mixture of 85 kg contains milk and water in the ratio 27:7. How much more water is to be added to get a new mixture containing milk and water in the ratio 3:1?  
 (a) 5 kg  
 (b) 6.5 kg  
 (c) 7.5 kg  
 (d) 8 kg

7. The ages of Raja and Rani are in the ratio 3:1. Fifteen years hence, the ratio will be 2:1. Their present ages are?  
 (a) 30 yrs, 10 yrs  
 (b) 45 yrs, 15 yrs  
 (c) 21 yrs, 7 yrs  
 (d) 60 yrs, 20 yrs

8. The speeds of three motorbikes are in the ratio 6:5:4. The ratio between the times taken by them to travel the same distance is?  
 (a) 10:12:15  
 (b) 12:10:8  
 (c) 15:12:10  
 (d) 10:15:12

9. In a company, 10% of male staff are same in number as 1/4th of the female staff. What is the ratio of male staff to female staff?  
 (a) 3:2  
 (b) 5:2  
 (c) 2:1  
 (d) 4:3

10. The telephone bill of a certain establishment is partly fixed and partly varies with the number of calls consumed. In a certain month, 540 calls made the bill Rs.1800. In another month, 620 calls were consumed

then the bill rose to Rs.2040. In another month, 500 units were consumed due to more holidays. The bill for that month would be?  
 (a) Rs.1560  
 (b) Rs.1680  
 (c) Rs.1840  
 (d) Rs.1950

11. If 0.4 of a number is equal to 0.06 of another number, the ratio of the numbers is?  
 (a) 2:3  
 (b) 3:4  
 (c) 3:20  
 (d) 20:3

12. The ratio of incomes of two person P1 and P2 is 5:4 and the ratio of their expenditures is 3:2. If at the end of the year, each saves Rs.1600, what is the income of P1?

- (a) Rs.800  
 (b) Rs.2400  
 (c) Rs.4000  
 (d) Rs.3200

13. The mean proportion between 234 and 104 is?  
 (a) 12  
 (b) 39  
 (c) 54  
 (d) 156

14. The seats in an engineering college for Computer science, electronics and civil are in the ratio of 5:7:8. There is a proportion to increase these seats by 40%, 50% and 75% respectively. What will be the ratio of increased seats?  
 (a) 2:3:4  
 (b) 6:7:8  
 (c) 6:8:9  
 (d) None of these

15. If 96 is divided into four parts proportional to 5, 7, 4, 8, then the smallest part is?  
 (a) 16  
 (b) 14  
 (c) 20  
 (d) 18

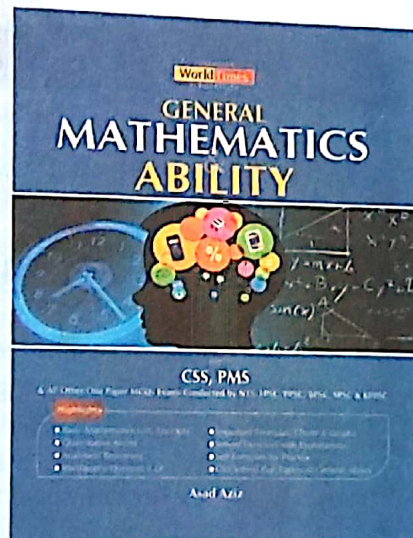
16. The price of 357 apples is Rs.2499. What will be the price of 49 dozens of such apples?  
 (a) Rs.3800  
 (b) Rs.2816  
 (c) Rs.4116  
 (d) Rs.3116

17. Some ladies can do a piece of work in 12 days. Two times the number of such ladies will do half of that work in?  
 (a) 6 days  
 (b) 4 days  
 (c) 12 days  
 (d) 3 days

18. A piece of work can be finished by a certain number of men in 100 days. If however, there were 10 men less, it would take 10 days more for the work to be finished. How many men were there originally?  
 (a) 75  
 (b) 82  
 (c) 100  
 (d) 110

19. It takes 10 days to dig a 100m long, 50m broad and 10m deep trench. What length of trench, 25m broad and 15m deep can be dug in 30 days?  
 (a) 400m  
 (b) 200m  
 (c) 100m  
 (d) 89m

20. A wheel rotates 10 times every minute and moves 20 cm during each rotation. How many metres does the wheel move in one hour?  
 (a) 6 metres  
 (b) 12 metres  
 (c) 120 metres  
 (d) 1200 metres



## Explanation for Question 10

Let the fixed amount be Rs. X and the cost of each unit be Rs. Y.

Then, (i)  $540y + x = 1800$

And (ii)  $620y + x = 2040$

On subtracting (i) from (ii), we get

$$80y = 240 \rightarrow y = 3$$

Putting  $y = 3$  in (i) we get:

$$540 \times 3 + x = 1800$$

$$x = (1800 - 1620) = 180$$

Fixed charges = Rs.180

Charge per unit = Rs.3

Total charges for consuming 500 units

$$= 180 + (500 \times 3) = \text{Rs.1680}$$





# The Collapse of Neoliberalism

The ideology at the root of all our problems fades away

Uzair Salman

In his celebrated essay 'The End of History?' noted political scientist Francis Fukuyama argues that the collapse of communism would clear the last obstacle separating the entire world from its destiny of liberal democracy and market economies. Fukuyama's idea may seem quaint and naive, but it reinforced the neoliberal economic doctrine that has prevailed for the last 40 years. The form of globalization prescribed by neoliberalism left individuals and entire societies unable to control an important part of their own destiny. But, today, the neoliberal doctrine that has prevailed for the last 40 years is on life-support. Hence, the long-dominant ideology that brought us forever wars, the Great Recession, and extreme inequality, is nearing a final collapse. Good riddance!

**F**

For 40 years, we have lived in a neoliberal era, an era defined in public policy by deregulation, liberalization, privatization and austerity. Starting with the Thatcher and Reagan revolutions, neoliberal ideas spread to capture the centre and even the left, ultimately becoming the reigning policy consensus by the mid-1990s.

But over the last decade, that neoliberal consensus has

collapsed. We can now see that its results were disastrous.

Neoliberal policies created gaping inequality, unleashing the economically powerful to reshape politics, markets and society to serve their own interests. Neoliberalism's radical individualism sapped society of community and solidarity, leaving people lonely and isolated, ultimately pushing us to retreat into tribal identities.

The central question of our time is, what comes after neoliberalism? New political paradigms emerge in response to the challenges and failures of the preceding era, and today, four possibilities for the future are emerging.

The first possibility is reformed neoliberalism. It preserves the old ideology's individualism and cosmopolitan sensibilities and keeps the basic structures of neoliberal capitalism in place, while reversing the worst extremes of its upwardly redistributionist economics. Some in this camp have a nostalgic wish to get things back to "normal," though



## Capitalist world is facing systemic crisis

At the beginning of the third decade of the 21st century, the international situation has become tense. However, this is just a new development of great changes unseen in a century, and another symptom which is formed when the capitalist world system in the model of neoliberalism falls into a systemic crisis.

Undoubtedly, the world economy is in a special historical period. The global economy is still in the shadow of the crisis which broke out more than 10 years ago. Economic growth has been sluggish for a long time, the level of debt remains high, negative interest rates are growing, the gap between the rich and the poor continues to widen.

40 years ago, faced with the "stagflation" crisis of economy, Western countries chose neoliberalism. By adopting neoliberalism, financial monopoly capital gradually usurps political, economic and cultural power in Western capitalist countries. Capital does away with social barriers and facilitates production, exchange, distribution and consumption, reshaping the world in keeping with its nature. The last round of global financial and economic crisis is a vehement outbreak of this contradiction.

In fact, the financial crisis in 2008 declared the failure of neoliberalism, and also provided a historic opportunity for Western countries to adjust their policies accordingly. However, financial capital pulled itself out of the crisis in the name of pumping up the market with public funds. As a result, financial capital has not only averted all setbacks but has also grown stronger since the crisis.

In this process, in order to save financial capital, the level of national debt in Western countries rose sharply, which led to the proportion of national debt in GDP of these countries increasing by an average of 30 percentage points. After that, the US and other countries took further tax cuts to stimulate the economy, which aggravated the fiscal crisis.

Meanwhile, Western countries generally adopt extremely loose monetary policies. On the one hand, interest rates are rapidly reduced to a very low level. On the other, a huge amount of capital is injected into the market through multiple

rounds of monetary easing. The aim of this policy is to make it easier for businesses and households to borrow at a very low cost, and then investment and consumption can be boosted. However, due to the economic downturn and pessimistic expectation for the future, many enterprises and families try to deleverage and cut debt. And the slow growth of investment and consumption results in a long-term stagnation of the economy.

Extremely loose monetary policies fail to reverse the decline of the economy; instead, they stimulate the expansion of asset bubbles. According to data provided by Global Housing Watch, a website attached to the international Monetary Fund, setting aside inflation, the global housing price index has exceeded the high point before the previous round of crisis. Even in Western countries where housing prices have not fully recovered due to the economic downturn, housing prices in some cities are far higher than before.

The situation in the stock market is even worse. Stocks in many countries have far exceeded their highs before the crisis. The US is the most typical one with its bourses hitting new highs in recent years.

In the face of this situation, the macroeconomic policies of Western countries face a dilemma. There is little room for expansionary policies, which may further aggravate asset bubbles, while deflationary policies may directly pierce bubbles and lead to crises.

What makes matters worse is that the new wealth of many countries flows to the rich on a large scale, and the gap between the rich and the poor widens. What's more, it is hard to accept that many reform measures urgently needed by Western society that aim to curb financial speculation and fraud and alleviate contradictions of new liberalism cannot be carried out because of resistance from monopoly capital.

The financial and economic crisis in Western countries is gradually turning into a serious social and political crisis. Western mainstream ideology, including neoliberalism, can neither explain nor solve the current systemic and institutional contradictions of capitalism, and the cultural crisis is becoming more and more intense.

they recognize that incremental reforms are essential. Others, like those who see the Universal Basic Income as a paradigm for the future, want to correct the dislocations that neoliberal policies created—but they are hesitant to attack the root causes of inequality head-on. The real danger of this path is that it threatens more of the same: persistent disaffection, further erosions of trust and social solidarity, and demagogues waiting in the wings. The second possibility is nationalist populism, which combines ethnic, religious or cultural nationalism with economic populism. This approach, most associated with Steve Bannon, may be viable as a campaigning strategy, but it seems unlikely as a governing strategy, as political and economic elites oppose

both the economic and social tenets of the framework. Indeed, candidate Trump campaigned in 2016 on this agenda only to abandon it as president. Because it is unlikely as a governing strategy, it is unlikely to define the next era of politics.

The third possibility, which many refer to as authoritarianism, has gotten the most attention. Scholars and commentators have argued that there is a global rise in autocracy. Political insurgents around the world are channelling popular unrest to win surprising victories. Strongman regimes are breaking constitutional constraints and norms. Meanwhile, constitutional democracies are on the ropes.

There is a proliferation of books and pamphlets with titles such as *How Democracies Die*, *Fascism: A Warning*, and *On Tyranny*, all seeking to awaken people to the looming threat. They argue that electoral rules, political institutions, the free press and constitutional norms are critical to the functioning of democracy—and that their erosion comes with a creeping authoritarianism. These accounts are alarming, but they offer an incomplete





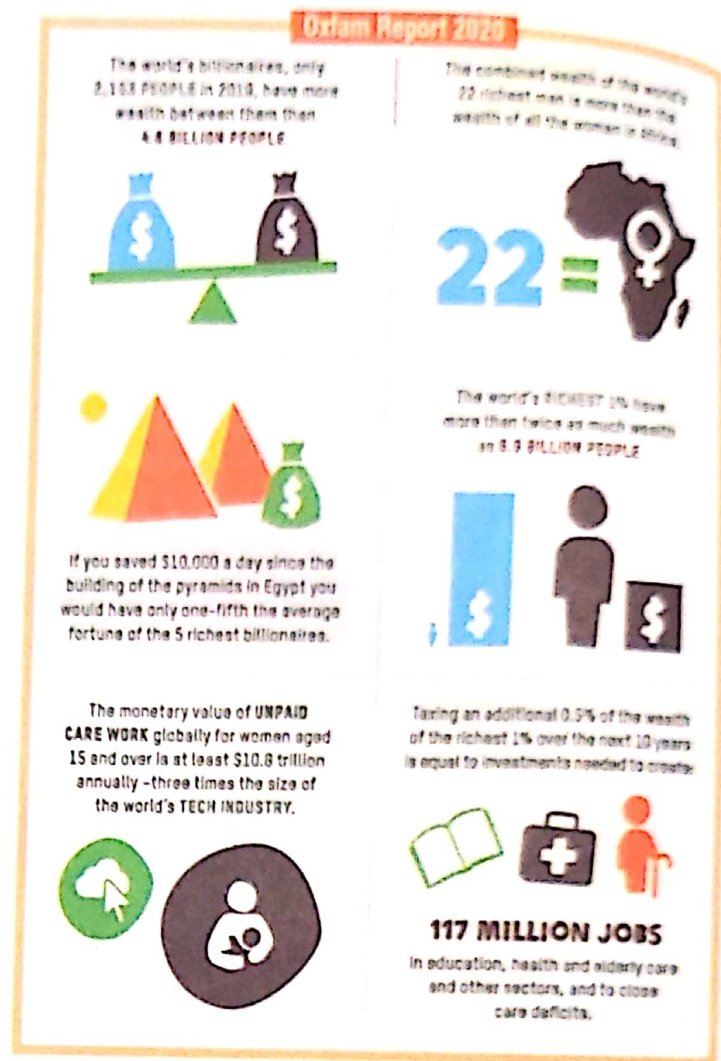
diagnosis of the problem. The rise-of-authoritarianism story focuses almost exclusively on political and constitutional constraints. These commentators worry about the breaking of constitutional and political norms, assaults on the independent media, and the politicization of the judiciary.

Each is hugely important. But they largely ignore the economic and social aspects of these so-called authoritarian countries. They rarely discuss that these nations are run by a small number of oligarchs who rely on crony capitalism and political corruption to get rich and then rig the political system and use divide-and-conquer nationalist tactics to stay in power.

The better term for this third future is "nationalist oligarchy," and Trumpism is its American variant. This form of government feeds nationalism to the people but delivers oligarchy—special privileges to the rich and well connected. Its economic approach is a corrupt outgrowth of neoliberalism. Its social policy is nationalist backlash. Its political programme involves rigging the rules so popular majorities cannot overthrow the powerful. Nationalist oligarchy is undesirable, to say the least—but it could easily define the next era of politics.

The final possibility is that a new era of democracy will follow the age of neoliberalism. Just as it is a mistake to reduce nationalist oligarchy to authoritarian politics, it is wrong to think that preserving elections, voting, the free press and constitutional norms are sufficient for democracy. Democracy has always demanded much more of societies and individuals.

For thousands of years, since at least the ancient Greeks, political leaders and philosophers have recognized that democracies could not succeed in the presence of extreme economic inequality. In an unequal society, either the rich would oppress the poor and democracy would descend slowly into oligarchy, or the masses would overthrow the



rich, with a demagogue leading the way to tyranny. Economic democracy is, therefore, critical to the persistence of democracy.

Similarly, when a society is deeply divided by race, religion, clan, tribe or ideology, democracy becomes difficult to sustain. Democracy requires us to determine our own destiny. But when the people are so divided that

**What is Neoliberalism?**

Neoliberalism is regularly used in popular debate around the world to define the last 40 years. It is used to refer to an economic system in which the "free" market is extended to every part of our public and personal worlds. The transformation of the state from a provider of public welfare to a promoter of markets and competition helps to enable this shift. Neoliberalism is generally associated with policies like cutting trade tariffs and barriers. Its influence has liberalized the international movement of capital, and limited the power of trade unions. It has broken up state-owned enterprises, sold off public assets and generally opened up our lives to dominance by market thinking.

**Liberalism vs. Neoliberalism**

Discussion abounds over how neoliberalism relates to the term that inspired it. To many, liberalism at its essence is a broad political philosophy, one that holds liberty to a high standard and defines all social, economic and political aspects of society, such as the role of government, toleration and freedom to act. Neoliberalism, on the other hand, is seen as more limited and focused, concerned with markets and the policies and measures that help them function fully and efficiently.



we aim toward diametrically opposed futures, politics increasingly becomes a zero-sum conflict, the equivalent of warfare rather than the exercise of freedom. "A house divided against itself," Lincoln famously noted, "cannot stand." A measure of social solidarity, a united democracy, is essential to the functioning of democracy. And an economic and united democracy cannot be achieved or sustained without a political process that is responsive to the people. Political democracy means more than just the right to vote. It requires that elections capture the popular will rather than the will of interest groups and wealthy individuals, that elected officials act in the public interest rather than doing the bidding of lobbyists, and that civil servants and judges do not stray from their popular mandates. As important as constitutional restraints and protections of minorities are, majoritarianism is critical to democracy. A system of government that is mostly unresponsive to the people is not a democracy at all.

If a new era of democracy is to take hold, we will need an agenda commensurate with the scope of our challenges. We must become a united democracy by creating

opportunities for civic engagement across our differences and by refusing to fall prey to divide-and-conquer racist tactics that perpetuate rule by the rich and powerful. We must create an economic democracy by breaking up economic power and expanding opportunities for all. We must reclaim political democracy from lobbyists, interest groups and wealthy donors while ensuring that everyone can participate. And we must defend democracy from oligarchies.

This paradigm does not look backward to a bygone era with promises to make America great again, and it does not resign us to incremental nudges. Instead, it looks forward to the future. As Theodore Roosevelt once said, "A great democracy has got to be progressive, or it will soon cease to be either great or a democracy."

The neoliberal era has put us in this moment of crisis, and the central battle of our time is now between nationalist oligarchy and democracy. The fight for a great democracy will require boldness and creativity, courage and resolve. If we want to save democracy, we will first need to achieve democracy. ■

### Neoliberalism in the age of Covid-19

The Covid-19 pandemic is relentless. It does not recognise cast, colour, class, age or region. It is everywhere—exposing the vulnerabilities of the global capitalist system driven by the neoliberal order that emerged in the post-Cold War era as a panacea to all the social economic and health problems. But the bubble of neoliberal order has been burst by the Covid-19 pandemic which has so far killed nearly 0.4 million people around the world and the figure of infected people has crossed 6 million.

This catastrophic human situation is widely being attributed to the negligence of the public health sector in the West and in the US under a neoliberal economic ideology based on liberalization, privatisation and fiscal austerity. Pursuit of self-interest replaced pursuit of people's welfare. Production in search of profit was shifted to regions of cheap labour. Vital sectors of society such as health and education were privatized and public health was either underfunded or defunded. The UK's NHS under the Tories is a glaring example. In the blind pursuit of profit, the capitalist system has made the poor more vulnerable to pandemics like Covid-19 that has punctured the very hollow nature of the neoliberal globalized world that was built on the basis of some shoddy claims of the 'End of History'. It was meant to build an equal, peaceful, prosperous and just world but today the reality is that even in the developed world people are dying because they don't have masks, respirators, ventilators and necessary protective gear for doctors and nurses; so the developing world is far away from all this.



The reason is that neoliberalism undermined the public health system by focusing more on militarisation and profit throughout the world, and waged unnecessary wars costing more than \$14 billion. These wars did nothing, except killing poor men, women and children, whether in Syria, Iraq, and Afghanistan.

Globalization per se is not bad. It has produced enormous benefits such as creating new jobs, opening new avenues of investment, transferring technology, worldwide interconnectedness of goods, services, capital, people, data that all have transformed the world. But at the same time, unhindered and unconstrained neoliberal globalization has produced more financial and health contagions. The issue at hand is how we are going to manage globalization; it definitely requires democratic governance and fair distribution of resources.

The world that will emerge in the aftermath of Covid-19 will surely be marked by uncertainty and anxiety and nobody is sure what the solution will be to the grave health and economic problems the world is going through. However, one thing is sure: the world won't be the same as it used to be. It will move away from a market-centric to a state-centric model as we have seen socialist countries have done better comparatively than conservative capitalist countries in dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic.



## NATIONAL

# Economic Growth without Distributive Justice Breeds Violence



Economic growth is the harbinger of progress and prosperity. Needless to say, it is to be reckoned that distributive justice must be part and parcel of the distribution process in

a society. If there is uneven distribution, inequalities will breed that may lead to rampant violence. The menace has widespread impacts. At the individual level, economic disparities beget class differences. The widened gap between the haves and the have-nots, as a result, leads to class struggle. The resultant class conflict, owing to stark differences and discontent, breeds violence. Apart from this, abject poverty becomes widespread in the event of unjust distribution of economic benefits. This paves way for increased ratio of social crimes which, in turn, fuel the scourge of violence. In fact, the un- or underprivileged populace becomes easy prey to the terrorists. At the national level, economic injustices ensue in civil conflicts, and youth bulge leads to aggression and terror. Also, domestic violence becomes commonplace for women as they are not at par with men in terms of economic

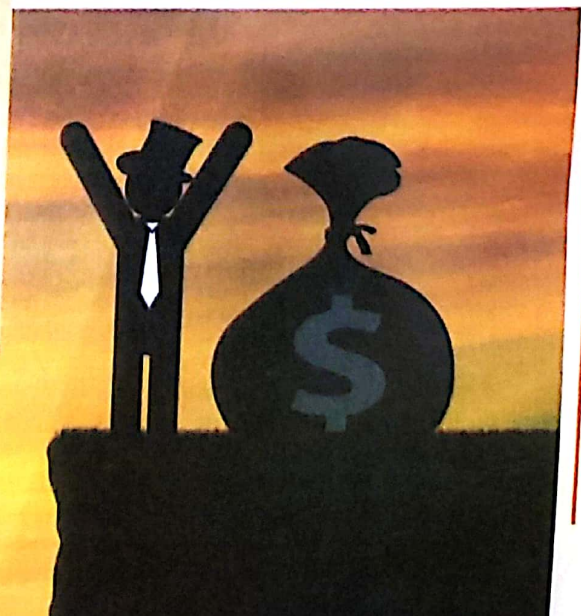
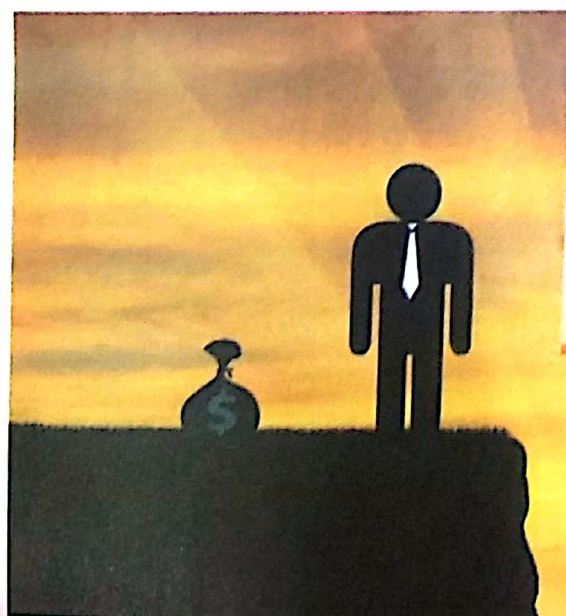
"In a real sense, all life is inter-related. The agony of the poor impoverishes the rich; the betterment of the poor enriches the rich. We are inevitably our brother's keepers because we are our brother's brother.

Whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly."  
— Martin Luther King

empowerment. Lopsided economic dispensation, at the international level, even instigates inter-state wars. History is replete with examples, where states have fought wars either for economic advantages or to achieve parity at the economic level. However, there are certain factors that fuel the violent behaviour of individuals, groups and states. Absence of trickle-down effect, capitalism and untamed globalization, unbridled corruption, are but a few examples of those.

Historically speaking, the American Revolution and the US Civil War, as well as the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia, occurred only due to sheer economic injustices committed by the ruling classes. In order to achieve a society devoid of violence, pacifying measures such as trickle-down effect, circulation of wealth and harnessing of globalization must be taken. This is the only way to nip the evil of violence in the bud.

**Economic disparities beget class difference**  
At individual level, the economic gulf between the people creates a class-ridden society. The differences between the haves and the have-nots spur class struggle. Eventually, the have-nots resort to violence that culminates in either





a peaceful or a bloody revolution. In fact, the gap between the two clusters of society exists only because of unjust distribution of wealth among the members of the society. Economics, according to Karl Marx, the eminent German philosopher who is the founder of modern communism, is the base of society. The other societal institutions such as education, politics and social standing depend upon the base. The stronger the base, the better the social standing. It implies that all other institutions are dependent on the institution of economy. This secret is well known to the bourgeoisie or the elite for they take over the mode of production in order to maintain their dominance in other domains. The proletariat believe that they are being exploited systematically to create a dependence-like situation. Consequently, they revolt to unravel the chains of slavery and revolutions, thus, break out with or without bloodshed to overhaul the society. This cycle of struggle has been there in all societies and will remain forever; as Marx opines: "The history of all hitherto existing societies is the history of class struggle."

### **Uneven distribution leads to abject poverty**

The menace of poverty becomes widespread when economic dividends do not reach the lower stratum of the society. And, it is a well-known fact that poverty, being a curse, has a multiplier effect as it breeds other social evils. The rampant social evils, in turn, disturb the social order. Crimes such as robbery, snatching, kidnapping for ransom, and theft are committed by those who are deprived of their economic rights. Consequently, those who are less privileged resort to illegal means to make both ends meet. They believe that this would help them improve their life. As a matter of fact, these illegal means encompass elements of violence which surges when poverty increases in society and the subsequent social order is disturbed. For that reason, Marcus Aurelius calls the poverty "the mother of all crimes."

### **Economic injustices effect surge in terrorism**

The deprivation of their economic rights creates a sense of alienation among the people. As a result, the alienated people succumb to false promises of terrorists. According to a report published in a national daily, the underprivileged are easy prey to the terrorists who, in exchange for security and a better life, join proscribed organizations. Ultimately, they become walking time-bombs that can explode at any time to wreak havoc on society. The poverty-stricken people, due to inferior economic conditions, inflict violence on the demand of their masters without taking into account the potential dire

consequences. Poverty is a great motivator, writes Kegley in World Politics, for allegiance to armed groups that promise security and improved standard of life.

### **Armed conflicts are the products of economic and status deprivation**

"People deprived of their status and economic wellbeing act to address their grievances. This results in frequent armed conflicts where there are a youth bulge and a deprived population. The number of armed conflicts in the Global South is high because of economic deprivation and widespread youth bulge. — Introduction to International Relation by Joshua S. Goldstein

On the contrary, the global north is relatively at peace due to their well-off status and improved conditions of life. The brutal aggression carried out by Naxalites in India, and by Tamil Tigers in Sri Lanka, were stark examples of armed groups fighting for their economic shares.

### **Unevenly distributed economic gains spawn domestic violence**

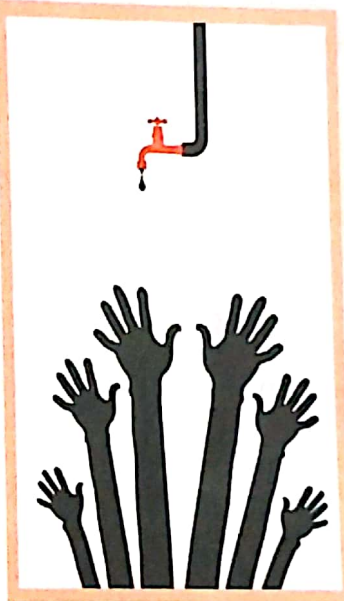
Domestic violence is directly linked to disproportionate division of economic dividends. For long, the patriarchal societies, like Pakistan, India and others, have subjugated women by making them dependent on their male relatives—father, brother, husband and son—for financial assistance. The crippling of women owing to economic conditions is manmade and it endangers their right to live as a free individual. Ultimately, they have to compromise on their other rights as well. The friction between men and women then increases as a result of which man directs violence to suppress woman's voice. She is confined within the four walls of her house.

### **Economic disparities result in the outbreak of wars**

One of the prime causes of inter-state wars is economic inequalities. States have been fighting each other to achieve economic superiority. The great world wars, i.e. WWI and WWII, were fought to achieve economic superiority. The recent trade war between China and the United States is also a manifestation of rivalry for economic superiority. Previously, states would fight for territorial domination as it was deemed as a sign of superiority. Since the advent of globalization, the trend has changed, and nation-states are now acquiring wealth to enhance their influence on the international level. Economic advancement is now seen as a zero-sum game rather than a win-win situation.

In a nutshell, uneven distribution of economic resources, whether at the societal level or at the nation-state level, is bound to breed violence. ■

The writer can be reached at [Imdad.928@gmail.com](mailto:Imdad.928@gmail.com).





# COVID-19 & Human Rights

The Covid-19 crisis has provided some political leaders with a perfect pretext to advance narrow interests, brushing aside long-held principles of human rights, democracy and the rule of law in the name of emergency. Perhaps this is the reason why curtailing certain rights has formed a core facet of many countries' response to the pandemic. They have issued stay-at-home orders and imposed curfews which impact individual liberty. People are being quarantined which is by default a discriminatory step which impacts people based on specific but sometimes arbitrarily enforced criteria, e.g. where they had travelled from, who they have been in contact with, and so on. However, such unprecedented acts establish the norms that will be very hard to undo long after the coronavirus is eradicated.

Muhammad Bilal But

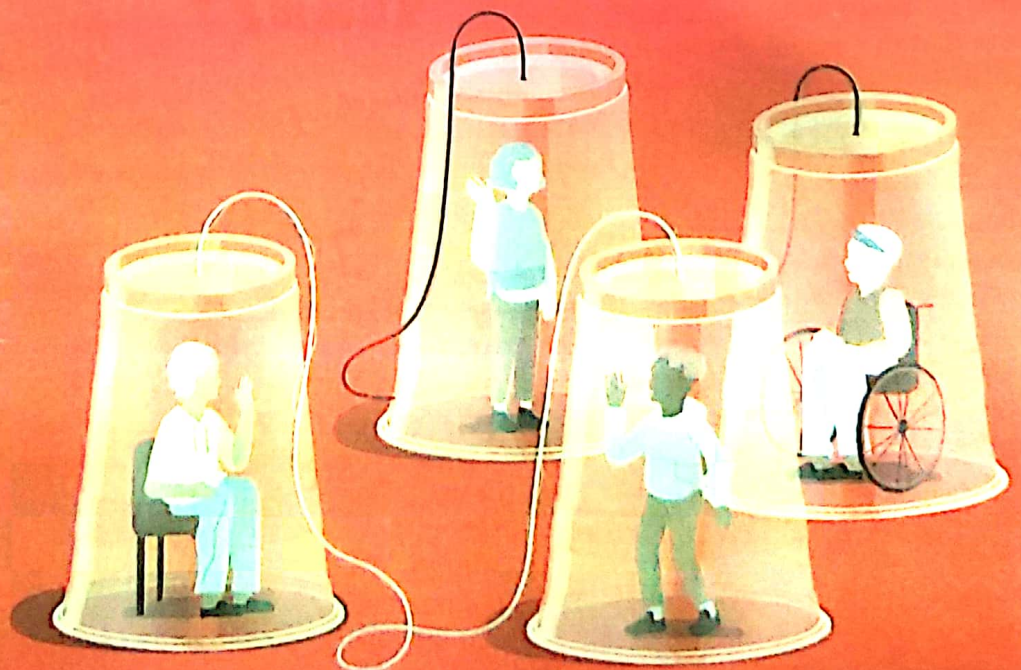
**T**he world is facing an unprecedented crisis. At its core is a global public health emergency on a scale not seen for a century, requiring a global response with far-reaching consequences for our economic, social and political lives. The priority is to save lives. In view of the exceptional situation and to preserve life, countries have no choice but to adopt extraordinary measures. Measures that have been adopted to slow transmission of the virus,

e.g. extensive lockdowns, essential restrictions on freedom of movement affect many human rights. We see that in some countries doctors and nurses don't have enough personal protective equipment. Unemployment is skyrocketing and people can't earn a basic standard of living. Social isolation leaves people with disabilities without care. These are all challenges that come back to human rights.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet, recently warned that

*"The COVID-19 pandemic is a public health emergency — but it is far more. It is an economic crisis. A social crisis. And a human crisis that is fast becoming a human rights crisis."*

— António Guterres, UN Secretary-General





## Human Rights at the Frontline in the Fight against Covid-19

Three rights are at the frontline in the current pandemic:

### 1. Right to life and duty to protect life

We are combating Covid-19 to protect the lives of all human beings. Invoking the right to life reminds us that all states have a duty to protect human life, including by addressing the general conditions in society that give rise to direct threats to life. States are making extraordinary efforts to do this, and it must remain the primary focus.

### 2. The right to health and access to health care

The right to health is inherent to the right to life. Covid-19 is testing to the limit states' ability to protect the right to health. Every human being is entitled to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health conducive to living a life in dignity. Everyone, regardless of their social or economic status, should have access to the health care they need.

Historic underinvestment in health systems has weakened the ability to respond to this pandemic as well as provide other essential health services. Covid-19 is showing that universal health coverage (UHC) must become an imperative. Those states with strong and resilient healthcare systems are better equipped to respond to crises. Healthcare systems all around the world are being stretched, with some at risk of collapse. UHC promotes strong and resilient health systems, reaching those who are vulnerable and promoting pandemic preparedness and prevention. SDG 3 includes a target of achieving UHC.

Universal, affordable healthcare systems assist with combatting the pandemic by ensuring access for everyone, without discrimination, to basic measures that contain the spread of the virus. This includes

testing, specialist care for the most vulnerable, intensive care for those in need and vaccination, when available, regardless of ability to pay. In response to the pandemic, some countries have extended health cover to everyone in their country; others have reached agreements with private sector healthcare providers to make their facilities available to the pandemic response.

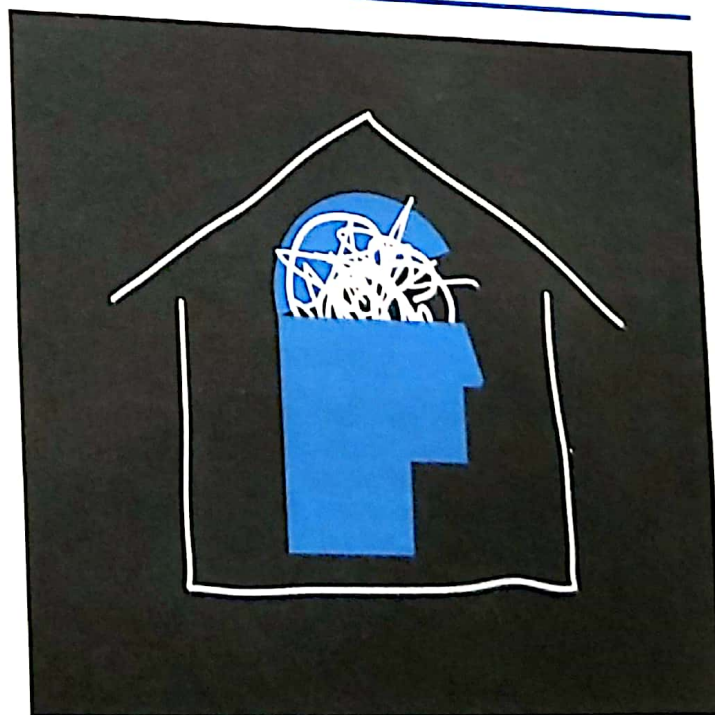
### 3. The central challenge to freedom of movement

Controlling the virus, and protecting the right to life, means breaking the chain of infection: people must stop moving and interacting with each other. The most common public health measure taken by States against Covid-19 has been restricting freedom of movement: the lockdown or stay-at-home instruction. This measure is a practical and necessary method to stop virus transmission, prevent healthcare services becoming overwhelmed, and thus save lives. However, the impact of lockdowns on jobs, livelihoods, access to services, including health care, food, water, education and social services, safety at home, adequate standards of living and family life can be severe. As the world is discovering, freedom of movement is a crucial right that facilitates the enjoyment of many other rights.

While international law permits certain restrictions on freedom of movement, including for reasons of security and national emergency like health emergencies, restrictions on free movement should be strictly necessary for that purpose, proportionate and non-discriminatory. The availability of effective and generalised testing and tracing, and targeted quarantine measures, can mitigate the need for more indiscriminate restrictions.

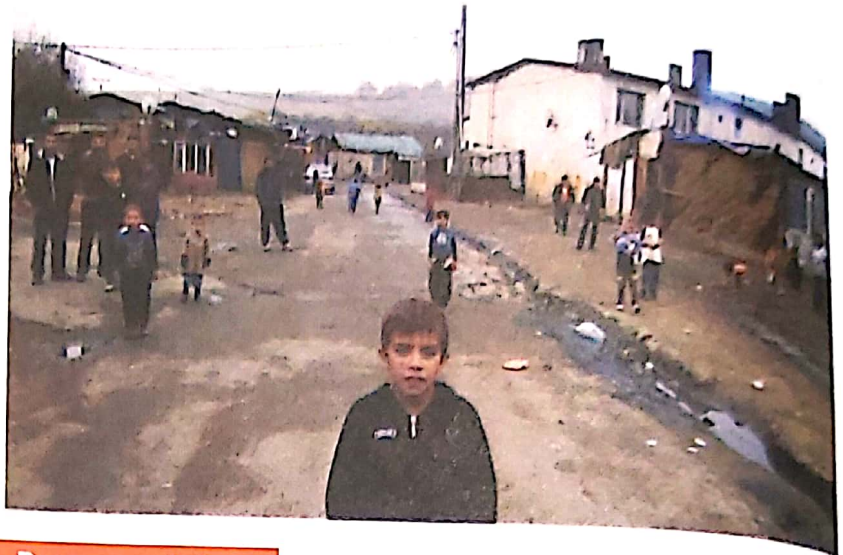


countries flouting the rule of law in the name of fighting the novel coronavirus pandemic risk sparking a "human rights disaster". She called on countries to refrain from violating fundamental rights "under the guise of exceptional or emergency measures." Bachelet acknowledged that states have the right to restrict some rights to protect public health, but she insisted that any restrictions should be necessary, proportionate and non-discriminatory, and also limited in duration. The UN rights chief also warned that efforts to rein in dangerous misinformation around the pandemic was, in some cases, being used as an excuse to crack down on legitimate free speech. She concluded her statement by opining: "If the rule of law is not upheld, then the public health emergency risks becoming a human rights disaster, with negative effects that will long outlast the pandemic itself." Guaranteeing human rights for everyone poses a





challenge for every country around the world to a differing degree. The public health crisis is fast becoming an economic and social crisis and a protection and human rights crisis rolled into one. In some, ongoing crises, especially armed conflict, put human rights and other international legal protections under extra pressure. The Covid-19 crisis has exacerbated the vulnerability of the least protected in society. It is highlighting deep economic and social inequalities and inadequate health and social protection systems that require urgent attention as part of the public health

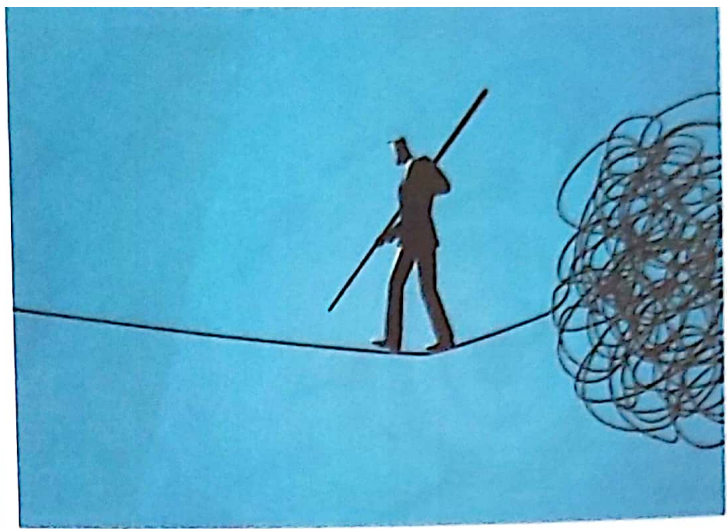


## Recommendations

In a report titled as "Covid-19 and Human Rights: We are all in this together," the United Nations has given following recommendations to protect human rights in the time of coronavirus pandemic:

- Use maximum available resources at national and international levels to ensure availability, accessibility and quality of health care as a human right to all without discrimination, including for conditions other than Covid-19 infection; and ensure that the right to life is protected throughout.
- Ensure that stimulus packages and other responses to mitigate the economic impacts of the pandemic are people-centred and adequately support groups most affected by the loss of their livelihoods, such as informal and independent workers without access to unemployment benefits, and more generally people and groups without access to social safety nets.
- Ensure income security and targeted social assistance for the most marginalized or vulnerable. Ensure availability of food, water and sanitation, and adequate housing.
- Ensure that national and local response and recovery plans identify and put in place targeted measures to address the disproportionate impact of the virus on certain groups and individuals, including migrants, displaced persons and refugees, people living in poverty, those without access to water and sanitation or adequate housing, persons with disabilities, women, older persons, LGBTI people, children, and people in detention or institutions.
- Encourage political leaders and other actors, including religious leaders, to speak out and take action against discrimination, hate speech, ageism, xenophobia, racism or violence arising from this pandemic, and promote inclusion and unity.
- Guarantee meaningful participation of all sectors of society and diverse civil society actors in decision-making processes on Covid-19 response.
- Ensure reliable, accurate information reaches all, by making it available in readily understandable formats and languages, including indigenous languages and those of minorities, adapting information for people with specific needs, including the visually and hearing impaired, and reaching those with limited or no ability to read, or who lack access to the Internet and usual media sources.
- Guarantee freedom of expression, including freedom of the press, so that information can be disseminated without suppression. Governments, as well as media and technology companies, need to counter misinformation with accurate, clear and evidence-based information, and avoid overbroad efforts that could result in censorship of protected speech.
- Ensure that any emergency measures, including states of emergency, are legal, proportionate, necessary and non-discriminatory, have a specific focus and duration, and take the least intrusive approach possible to protect public health.
- Ensure that emergency powers are not used as a basis to quash dissent, silence human rights defenders or journalists, or any other steps taken that are not strictly necessary to address the health situation.
- Ensure that safeguards are in place where new technologies are used for surveillance in response to Covid-19, including purpose limitations and adequate privacy and data protections.
- Mitigate the impact of the crisis on women and girls, including on their access to sexual and reproductive health/rights, and protection from domestic and other forms of gender-based violence and ensure their full and equal representation in all decision-making on short-term mitigation and long-term recovery.
- Strengthen international cooperation and take steps towards the provision of universal health care, collaborate in developing a vaccine and treatment for the pandemic, expedite trade and transfer of essential medical supplies and equipment, including personal protective equipment for health care and other front-line workers, and address intellectual property issues, to ensure that Covid-19 treatments are available and affordable to all.
- Take measures to alleviate the situation of vulnerable groups, including migrants and refugees, outside their country of origin, in particular by granting temporary residence to migrants, imposing a moratorium on deportations and other forced returns, and ensuring that individuals are able to return home voluntarily in safety and dignity.
- Take the lessons learned from this pandemic to refocus action on ending poverty and inequalities and addressing the underlying human rights concerns that have left us vulnerable to the pandemic and greatly exacerbated its effects with a view to building a more inclusive and sustainable world including for future generations.





response. Women and men, children, youth and older persons, refugees and migrants, the poor, people with disabilities, persons in detention, minorities, LGBTI people, among others, are all being affected differently. We have an obligation to ensure everyone is protected and included in the response to this crisis. State authorities are having to deploy maximum resources to combat the spread of the disease and protect lives. Decisions are being made at speed and, even though well-intended, some can inadvertently have adverse consequences. Responses must be proportionate to the pandemic to preserve the trust that needs to exist between people and their government, especially during a crisis.

Human rights guide states on how to exercise their power so that it is used for the benefit of the people, and not to do harm. In the current crisis, human rights can help states to re-calibrate their response measures to maximize their effectiveness in combatting the disease and minimising the negative consequences. The centrality of protection, which underpins the response in humanitarian settings, ensures that we collectively preserve our common humanity and dignity.

Human rights law recognizes that national emergencies may require limits to be placed on the exercise of certain human rights. The scale and severity of Covid-19 reaches a level where restrictions are justified on public health grounds. Nothing in this article seeks to tie the

hands of states in shaping an effective response to the pandemic. Rather it aims to signal to states possible pitfalls in response to the crisis and to suggest ways in which attention to human rights can shape better responses.

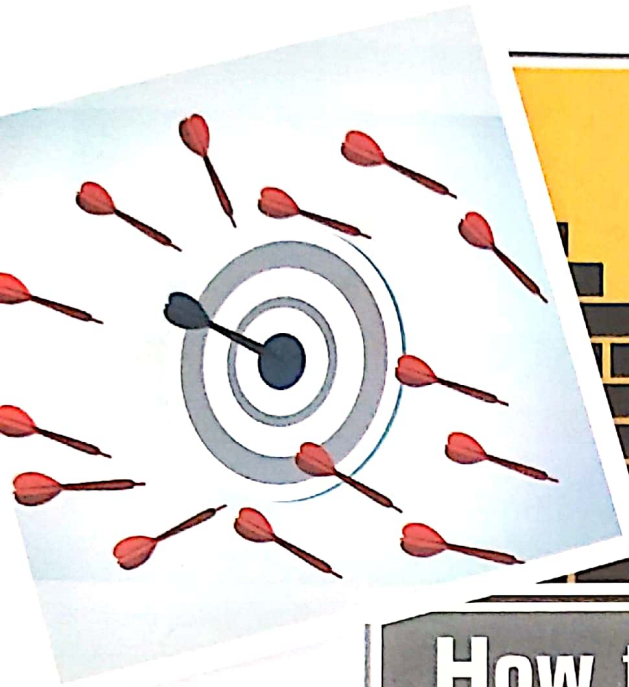
The aim is threefold: to strengthen the effectiveness of the response to the immediate global health threat; mitigate the broader impact of the crisis on people's lives; and avoid creating new or exacerbating existing problems. All three elements will position us to build back better for everyone.

Against a backdrop of rising ethno-nationalism, populism, authoritarianism and pushback against human rights in some countries, the crisis can provide a pretext to adopt repressive measures for purposes unrelated to the pandemic. The instability and fear that the pandemic engenders is exacerbating existing human rights concerns, such as discrimination against certain groups, hate speech, xenophobia, attacks and forced returns of refugees and asylum-seekers, mistreatment of migrants, and sexual and gender-based violence, as well as limited access to



sexual and reproductive health and rights. This is not a time to neglect human rights; it is a time when, more than ever, human rights are needed to navigate this crisis in a way that will allow us, as soon as possible, to focus again on achieving equitable sustainable development and sustaining peace. ■





## How to Deal with Failure?

Laiba Muhammad Aamir



In such situations, there is always a need for mind counselling. These dejected people must be stopped from getting ensnared in unhealthy competitions. Moreover, they must be made to watch talk shows which discuss that failure provides opportunity. Similarly, there should be some written pieces made available for them that tell how to overcome failure. It is a known fact that failure cannot be avoided unless one avoids doing anything at all.

Following are the three ways that may help you to reduce the pain of the defeat,

and to start striving again.

### 1. Accept your flaws

Instead of trying to be absolutely perfect (which is never achievable), we must start finding beauty in imperfections. Everyone has flaws but some people pretend as if they are faultless because they want to give hard time to others. They are those who feed on the miseries of others. They disturb the peace of society by letting others think that their flaws are no less than a sin.

If a person wants to become a "someone" in life, he needs to accept his flaws. Embracing one's flaws does not mean living with them forever but it means having the courage to fix them. In the same way, when a person fails, he blames his imperfect self and never tries to correct it. Working on one's weak points changes them into one's strength. Once you face your flaws, you grow.

For example, if you have slow handwriting and the time required to complete a paper is less than the time you require, you must accept the truth that you need to work harder to speed up your handwriting. Do not run away from it. The courage to face one's weak side lets those things happen that one could have ever imagined.

A Chinese philosopher once said, "Better to be a diamond with a flaw than a pebble without." When you hold this truth firmly, you create a nurturing environment around you. You become stronger and confident and, in this way, the universe provides all the success that you aim.

### 2. Stop caring about the people who judge you

One thing that hurts the most and that stops you from making any effort is the look of people that is full of judgements and opinions. You must stop caring about the people who judge you by your mistakes. Such people keep reminding us of our failure as if that were

In primary schools, we are all taught the story of a spider that tries again and again to weave a web. The purpose of that story was to make us learn that one should keep on trying again and again unless one achieves one's goal. It intended to teach us that in our future life, we will face such failures that will be hard for us to overcome but we must not forget that the success lies in trying wholeheartedly. That story aimed to make us know that whether it is a rejection at an office or a failure in a test, we must keep on giving that another best shot. Most of the people suffer from severe depression after a flop. They stop struggling because they consider there is nothing left. Such people let the failure decide their life and they get entrapped in a devastating situation for a lifetime.



I have not failed. I've just found 10,000 ways that won't work.

Thomas Edison

the end of life. They do not know that it was a learning opportunity and it broadened the horizon of the mind to embrace and assimilate to more ideas.

When a mistake is committed, it is the universe teaching in a different way. People who measure people by their failures with their own 'standard' yardstick have nothing better to do. You should not get their views on nerves but rather learn to control emotions. When such people pass comments, it is not about you; it is about their narrow outlooks, insecurities and limitations. Their thinking only reaches how you failed. But, they can never imagine how far you can go—and you will!

Sometimes, people get over the frustrating feelings of their failure, but others' minds are stuck in there. They decide that growth is not possible without failure. Success in life demands to learn that those people who judge cannot see the potential in you for doing wonders. Oppositely, those people who understand what you are capable of, do not judge you.

For this reason, it is wise to stay as far as possible from those who doubt your abilities. Surround yourself with those well-wishers who do not make you feel guilty each time you fail, but see it as a milestone in your journey towards growth and success.

### 3. Motivate yourself

Instead of crying over a miscarriage, you need to get up immediately and be your own motivator. It is one stupid thing to wait for others to give you a forward push. You must feel confident in the truth that you are enough for yourself. Accepting this truth, believe me, does magic.

One thing that really works in this regard is to sit in a relaxed way and have a one-to-one conversation with yourself. You need to make yourself understand that you know your talent, and no one else does. Now, when you have failed, you know what you need to work on and you know what motivates you. Converting failure into a victory requires managing one's self.

Another thing that will help in self-motivating is to avoid distractions; be it toxic people, unhealthy food, unnecessary talk or over-thinking about the negative aspects of your life. It is better to leave all those things behind that cause discouragement.

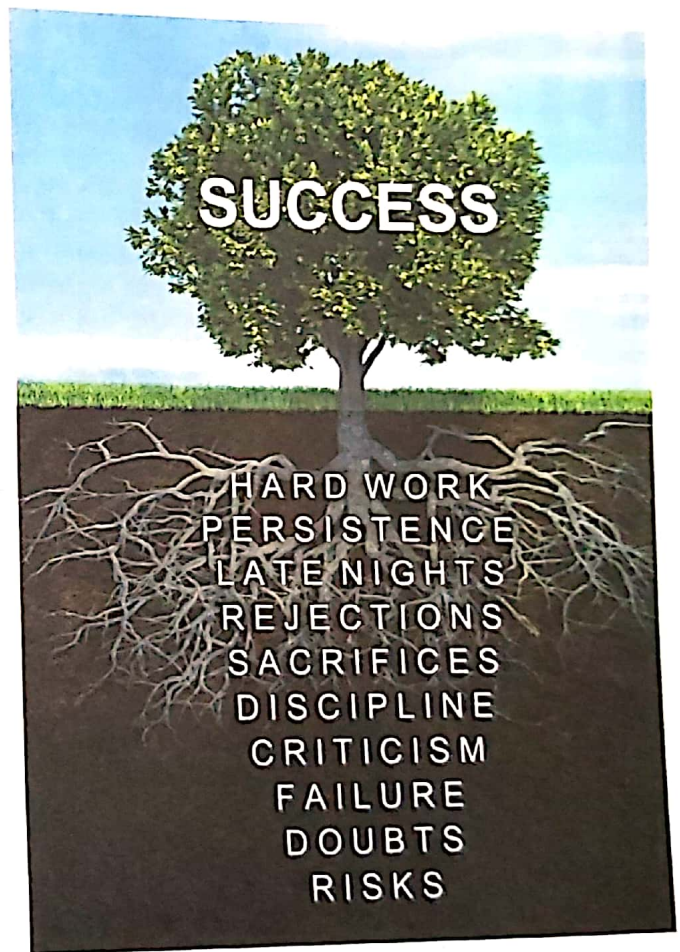
Similarly, success comes in life when you stop procrastinating. What's done is done already. Whatever you have

been through, you have already gone through it. You need to start working all over again. Even a building needs to construct from ashes; it must be built without wasting time. Once the journey away from failure and towards success starts, it motivates its passengers with every step they take towards a destination.

Also, instead of blaming your fate for the failure, you must start taking responsibility for whatever the result you faced or are about to face. It will help in working with true dedication.

### Conclusion

In conclusion, life is such a beautiful journey. It does not deserve to be destroyed by just one failure. It has a lot more that is waiting to be achieved. As Winston Churchill said, "The pessimist sees difficulty in every opportunity,



but the optimist sees opportunity in every difficulty." Instead of crying over what has passed, an honest and loyal struggle can create better than what is being missed. Success and failure go hand in hand. In order to achieve one, another cannot be neglected. For this reason, the secret of a blessed and satisfying life lies in the fact that we must accept failure with dignity and keep on trying instead of giving up. ■

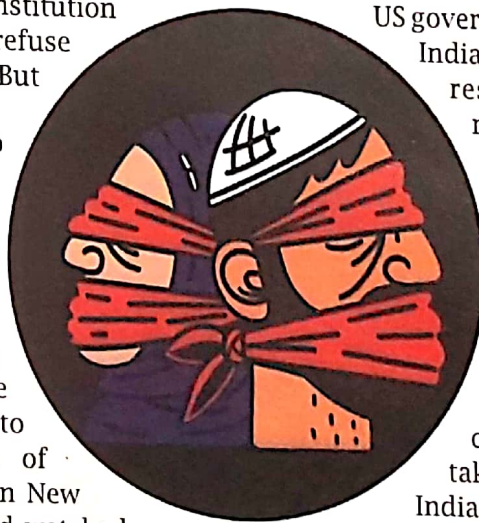




# Unending Persecution of Indian Muslims

**B**y all accounts, the Hindutva-committed Modi regime is out to Hinduize India, a state that is also homeland to 200 million Muslims. It is a two-pronged strategy. One, New Delhi has set in motion a process to change the demography of Occupied Jammu and Kashmir where Muslims are in clear majority. For this to happen, it abrogated Articles 370 and 35-A of its constitution last year, and, as its follow-up, granted domicile status to some 300,000 non-residents, all Hindus, in the occupied state. Additionally, as a part of this sinister move, the Indian government has also rewritten the law concerning slums by deleting reference to "permanent residents". Of course, the entire exercise is an atrocious violation of the Indian constitution that had protected Kashmiris' right to refuse any change of their land's demography. But now the Hindutva is calling the shots. Two, the efforts have been stepped up to force Muslims' conversion to Hinduism—not by force of argument but under the shadow of sword. The anti-minorities Citizenship Act was passed, which offers the Muslim minority an option either to become stateless or become Hindu. And the protesting Muslims were subjected to severe punishment. In the month of February, anti-Muslim riots erupted in New Delhi and as a nonchalant wider world watched the Hindu extremists, fully supported by police, killed dozens of Muslims and vandalized their shops and put on fire their residences. Now Muslims are under attack again as Indian government blamed a mass gathering of Muslims in New Delhi for helping spread the coronavirus. The Hindu media has joined hands with the BJP goons in branding that Tableeghi gathering as "corona terrorism". How this anti-Muslim Hindutva plan would play out in times to come, the only plausible conjecture is that as long as RSS-progeny is in power in India, it would continue. But should Indian government be immune to international persuasion and pressure, it should not. There are a number of UN conventions and world human

rights organisations' calls that stoutly reject justification for such inhuman plans and plots under the guise of 'it's an internal matter'. But, unfortunately, in case of India, the political world is silent. If there is any protest, it is too feeble to provoke tangible restrictions on the Modi government. Unmistakably, the conscience of world governments remains undisturbed. For that, let us look into the actionable potentiality of positions taken by two world bodies on the unceasing persecution of India's Muslim minority. The US Commission on International Religious Freedom has re-listed India as a "Country of Particular Concern". "Perhaps, the steepest, and most alarming deterioration in religious freedom conditions is in India," it says. But let us see if its recommendation to US government "to impose targeted sanctions on



Indian government agencies and officials responsible for severe violations of religious freedom by freezing those individuals' assets and/or barring their entry into the United States" come into force. Is it that Narendra Modi, fountainhead of anti-Muslim violence, too would be re-listed for no-entry ban? On this, the USCIRF owes an answer. The Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) has also been called upon by Pakistan and Kuwait to take urgent measures to preserve rights of Indian Muslims. Will members of OIC remain silent over crimes committed against Muslims in India and move "politically, legally and economically" against it, Kuwait has asked the Muslim world leadership. Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi too has urged the OIC members to "unite in global condemnation of these inhuman attacks. We cannot stand by and let another Gujarat happen" in the wake of Covid-19. But if past is any history, particularly since the rise of Narendra Modi to power, neither the United States nor the OIC is going to go beyond some pious statements. Ultimately, ball is in India's court and it is India's 200 million Muslims who are going to play. If they are subdued and downcast today; tomorrow, they are going to burst into a violent revolt. ■



## EXAM PACK

**Herd Immunity**

Herd immunity is the indirect protection from a contagious, infectious disease that happens when a population is immune either through vaccination or immunity developed through previous infection. If the virus keeps spreading, eventually so many people will be infected and (if they survive) become immune that the outbreak will fizzle out on its own as the germ finds it harder and harder to find a susceptible host. This phenomenon is known as herd immunity. Once herd immunity has been established for a while, and the ability of the disease to spread is hindered, the disease can eventually be eliminated. This is how the world eradicated smallpox, for example.

**How Are Petroleum Prices Calculated?**

The price of petrol is the sum of taxes and commissions. There is the base price of petrol per litre. Add to that the Petroleum Development Levy (PDL), a tax collected by the central government. After the PDL, other additions are the oil marketing companies' profit of Rs2-3 per litre, the dealer's profit, who is selling at the petrol pumps, which is an estimated Rs2-2.5, import tax of one percent, a variable transportation charge, and finally the General Sales Tax (GST). Previous governments would increase the GST to meet the government's revenue deficit. However, in May 2019, the levy, which otherwise remained fixed at Rs12 per litre, was changed for the first time in several years. One reason for the uptick in the levy is that this amount goes directly to the Centre, while the amount collected from the GST largely ends up with the provinces.



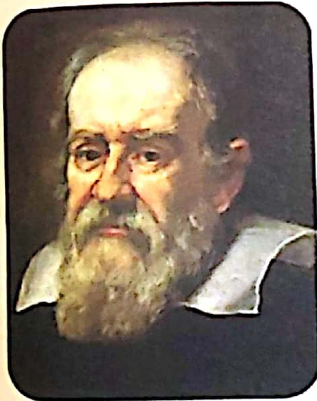
M. Usman Butt

**Self-quarantine**

Given the incubation period, it's not always easy to know if and when exposure to the coronavirus has occurred. If a person has returned from travel to a high-risk area or has been exposed to someone who has tested positive for the new coronavirus, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommend that they self-quarantine for 14 days.

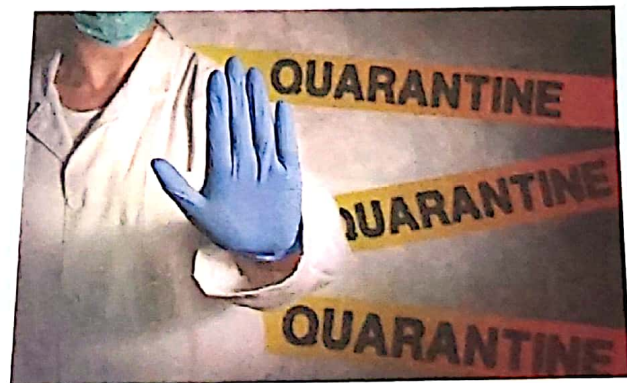
The quarantine period restricts the movement of the person (even though he may not seem sick or actually be sick) until the incubation period is over to see if they become ill. Self-quarantine can go a long way in limiting the spread of a communicable disease such as Covid-19. Staying at home is the first step of self-quarantine, but it also involves other important behavioural changes, according to the CDC, which include:

- No visitors;
- No sharing towels or utensils;
- Washing hands frequently; and
- Practicing physical distancing by staying at least six feet away from other people in your household.

**Who Discovered Saturn's Rings?**

In 1610, Galileo was probably the first to discover Saturn's rings. Because his telescope was small, Galileo could not see the rings properly and assumed they were satellites. In 1656, Christiaan Huygens discovered a ring around Saturn with a more powerful telescope. Later, in 1675, Jean Dominique Cassini distinguished two rings around Saturn. Still later, more rings were discovered

and, as recently as 1980, ringlets were observed.

**Tiddi Dal (Locust Swarms)**

Locusts, or Desert Locusts, are insects that belong to the family of grasshoppers. They are unique in the way that they change their behaviour – turning from solitary to “gregarious” or social insects that coalesce into a swarm and forage for food together. Their appearance resembles that of short-horned grasshoppers, and they are scientifically referred to as *Schistocerca gregaria*. Green plants happen to be their primary source of energy. According to the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), their average life span is about three to five months, and it can vary depending on the weather and ecological conditions. Locusts, known as the oldest migratory pests in the world, travel across different countries and even continents with the help of high wind speeds. At their fastest, they can cover a distance of up to 150 km per day. Being herbivores, they feed on plants. Their hungry swarms devour all the green vegetation in their way, often causing serious agricultural damages. According to the FAO, an adult locust can consume food quantity equal to its own weight, which is roughly about 2 grams, every single day. It is estimated that a single square kilometre of the swarm can contain somewhere between 40-80 million adult locusts, and in total, a swarm can easily consume the same amount of food as 35,000 people every single day.



## What is meant by vectors in medicine?

A vector is an animal that transmits a particular infectious disease. A vector picks up disease organisms from a source of infection, carries them within or on its body, and later deposits them where they infect a new host. Mosquitoes, fleas, lice, ticks and flies are the most important vectors of disease to humans.



## N95 and Surgical Face Masks

Covid-19 is a respiratory illness, and coronavirus spreads through vaporized droplets. N95 respirator masks are the type most proven to protect you from acquiring SARS-CoV-2. Other varieties, including surgical masks and homemade, are not proven to be effective at blocking



the smallest particles that could carry the virus, which can remain in the air for up to 30 minutes. Homemade coverings are regarded as effective at protecting other people from large droplets ejected through coughing and sneezing.

## What is a Pandemic?

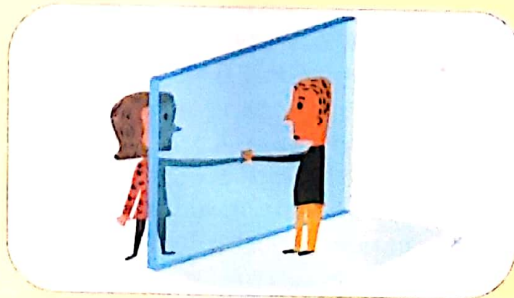
Covid-19 was declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization (WHO) on March 11, 2020, making it the first time in history that a coronavirus caused such an event. A pandemic is the global outbreak of a disease; pandemics are usually classified as epidemics first, which is when a disease is spreading rapidly in a particular area or region. The opioid epidemic in the United States or Ebola in West Africa in 2014 are examples of recent epidemics. According to a statement posted by the WHO's director-general on March 11, the decision to call the coronavirus a pandemic was made because "we are deeply concerned both by the alarming levels of spread and severity, and by the alarming levels of inaction." At the time of the announcement, the virus had spread into six continents and more than 100 countries.

## Physical Distancing or Social Distancing

Physical distancing, commonly referred to as social distancing, is the deliberate increase of physical space between people to keep them from spreading illness. Experts recommend staying at least six feet away from other people to reduce your risk of catching the coronavirus.

Mental health experts recommend using the more precise term "physical distancing" because, according to an article published on March 21 by CNN, when practicing keeping a physical distance, social connectivity is critical.

Public gatherings like conferences, concerts and sporting events have been cancelled because of physical distancing recommendations. Schools around the world have cancelled classes, and most people are being encouraged to work from home, if possible.

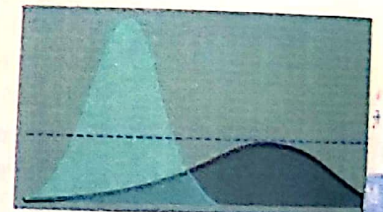


## Ventilators

A ventilator is a machine that helps a person breathe by expanding his lungs and supplying them with oxygen when it's too difficult to do so on their own. As the Covid-19 disease hospitalizes hundreds of thousands of people around the world, ventilators are critically low, and doctors are increasingly forced to decide which patients will receive their aid, and which will not. This is why ventilators are pivotal in the battle against Covid-19.

## Flattening the Curve

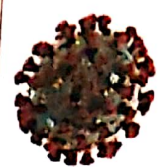
When viewed on a graph, a sudden surge in people getting sick with Covid-19 over a very short period (within a few days) can look like a tall, narrow curve, similar to a spike. This type of surge happened with the coronavirus in Italy, and the number of people who were sick and needed hospitalization overwhelmed the healthcare facilities, safety equipment and healthcare providers. The United States and countries around the world want to "flatten the curve" if possible, meaning that a smaller number of people are sick with coronavirus at any one time.



## Covid-19

You may be tempted to use Covid-19 as a synonym for coronavirus, but that will confuse matters. Covid-19 is the name of the disease that the novel coronavirus causes. It stands for "coronavirus disease 2019."

The disease brings on flulike symptoms, but dangerously affects the lungs by filling them with fluid at a rapid rate. Patients with extreme cases may need respirators and oxygen to help them breathe, often for weeks. The fear is that fatalities will occur when need for ventilators outstrips the supply.



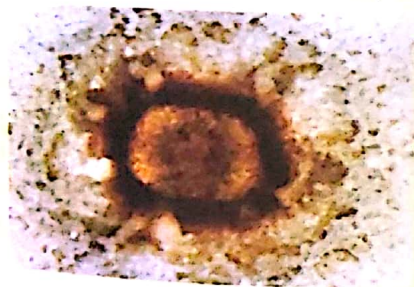


## Nanny State

One of the more disturbing trends in government expansion has been the collection of laws, regulations and court decisions that make up the "nanny state." Those laws and regulations represent government at its most arrogant. Hence, 'nanny state' is a term that refers to any government that intervenes excessively in the daily lives of its citizens—conjuring images of a bossy government forever telling people all what to do. The term is attributed to British Conservative politician, Iain Macleod, who used it in a derogatory sense to criticise government intervention in people's lives. A nanny state's supporters believe it can improve the lives of citizens through careful policies, while its critics believe that its policies are not aimed at enhancing the welfare of citizens but instead enriching the lives of the political class with an ulterior agenda.

## Vaccinia

The Vaccinia virus (VACV or VV) is a large, complex, enveloped virus belonging to the poxvirus family. It has a linear, double-stranded DNA genome approximately 190 kbp in length, and which encodes approximately 250 genes. The vaccinia was at the heart of the modern smallpox vaccine. History has it that Edward Jenner isolated a cowpox virus and injected it into a boy. This protected him from small pox and birthed the vaccination era. However, recent work finds that Jenner may not have just used a cowpox



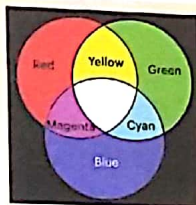
virus. What he used may have contained even the horsepox virus and slivers of other viruses too. This cocktail makes up vaccinia and there are new investigations into its genetic structure to make it amenable to new kinds of vaccines. A new article in the journal Lancet Infectious Diseases suggests that the smallpox vaccine might actually have come from horses.

## Time Crystals

To put it simply, they are hypothetical structures that have movement without expending energy. First proposed by Nobel Prize-winning theoretical physicist Frank Wilczek in 2012, time crystals are structures that appear to have movement even at their lowest energy state, known as a ground state. This ability violates a fundamental symmetry in physics called time-translation symmetry, but physicists have now demonstrated that it might actually be possible for time crystals to physically exist. Earlier this year, two separate teams of physicists described ways of actually creating such structures. Because they passed a preliminary peer review earlier recently, the scientific community is excited about it. Being able to create them would mean a leap forward in creating quantum computers, said to be the next evolutionary step in data storage. The newly-created matter joins a host of other exotic states of matter, such as superconductors, quantum-spin liquids and superfluids.

## Primary Colours in Light

Colour is determined by the wavelength of visible light (the distance between one crest of the light wave and the next). Those colours that blend to form "white light" are from shortest wavelength to longest: red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo and violet. All these monochromatic colours, except indigo, occupy large areas of the spectrum (the entire range of wavelengths produced when a beam of electromagnetic radiation is broken up). These colours can be seen when a light beam is refracted through a prism. Some consider the primary colours to be six monochromatic colours that occupy large areas of the spectrum: red, orange, yellow, green, blue and violet. Many physicists recognize three primary colours: red, yellow and blue; or red, green and blue. All other colours can be made from these by adding two primary colours in various proportions. Within the spectrum, scientists have discovered 55 distinct hues. Infrared and ultraviolet rays at each end of the spectrum are invisible to the human eye.



## Yerkes-Dodson Law

A psychological phenomenon where the performance of an individual at a particular task increases with physiological arousal, but only up to a point. After a while, the positive relationship between the two variables reaches a point of saturation, and excessive arousal, in fact, leads to a deterioration in task performance. The law is named after psychologists Robert Yerkes and Dillingham Dodson, who first proposed it in 1908. They observed that mild electric shocks on rats motivated them to complete tasks more efficiently, but as the shocks became too strong, their efficiency dropped dramatically.

## Paradox of aid

This refers to the paradoxical situation wherein countries that are blessed with good institutions to achieve economic growth have no need for foreign aid, while countries that possess poor institutions that inhibit their growth do not benefit from any amount of foreign aid. It was proposed by British development economist Peter Thomas Bauer in his 1971 book, *Dissent on Development*. The paradox of aid emphasises the importance of good institutions to achieve better economic conditions in the developing world, and the ineffectiveness of foreign aid to achieve a substantial improvement in living standards in the absence of the right institutions.

## Easterlin Paradox

This refers to the paradoxical relationship between the growth in the GDP of a country and the level of happiness enjoyed by its people. It is named after American economist Richard Easterlin who proposed the concept in his 1971 paper "Does Economic Growth Improve the Human Lot? Some Empirical Evidence". Easterlin argued that an increase in the GDP of a country did not always lead its citizens to become happier people as the marginal gain in happiness begins to decrease beyond a particular point. Critics, on the other hand, have contested the paradox saying that richer countries are generally happier than poorer ones.



## Wolf-Warrior Diplomacy

During the recent weeks, the Chinese foreign ministry has adopted an increasingly strident tone against the United States, Australia and other countries. Dubbed "wolf-warrior diplomacy," this new approach seems popular inside China and reinforces a presumed transition of Chinese diplomacy from conservative, passive, and low-key to assertive, proactive, and high-profile. It is a phrase that is now used widely in Chinese state-run media as well as Western publications, and there is no doubt that its proponents have the full support of the country's top diplomat, Foreign Minister Wang Yi, who while speaking at a press conference in Beijing on May 23 said that China would now push back against "deliberate insults." Diplomats involved in this sort of diplomacy are being called the wolf warriors as they represent a completely different type of diplomat to the famously bland Chinese foreign representatives of the past few decades.

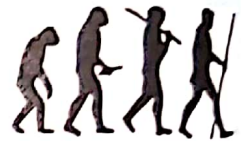
Instead of long, verbose statements, these Chinese officials are taking to Twitter and other social media platforms to hit back directly at any criticism of China or the ruling Communist Party. "Wolf Warrior" is actually the title of a hugely-successful series of patriotic action films in China, featuring Rambo-like protagonists who fight enemies at home and abroad to defend Chinese interests.



## How did humans evolve?

It has been proposed that the Homo lineage of modern humans (*Homo sapiens*) originated from a hunter of nearly five feet tall, *Homo habilis*, who is widely presumed to have evolved from an australopithecine ancestor. Near the beginning of the Pleistocene epoch (two million years ago), *Homo habilis* is thought to have transformed into *Homo erectus* (Java Man), who used fire and possessed culture.

Middle Pleistocene populations of *Homo erectus* are said to show steady evolution toward the anatomy of *Homo sapiens* (Neanderthals, Cro-Magnons, and modern humans), 120,000 to 40,000 years ago. Pre-modern *Homo sapiens* built huts and made clothing.



## Seven Endocrine Glands

The major endocrine glands include the pituitary, thyroid, parathyroids, adrenals, pancreas, testes and ovaries. These glands secrete hormones into the blood system, which generally stimulate some change in metabolic activity:

**Pituitary gland**—secretes ACTH to stimulate the adrenal cortex, which produces aldosterone to control sodium and potassium reabsorption by the kidneys; FSH to stimulate gonad function and prolactin to stimulate milk secretion of breasts; TSH to stimulate thyroid gland to produce thyroxine; LH to stimulate ovulation in females and testosterone production in males; GH to stimulate general growth; stores oxytocin for uterine contraction.

**Thyroid gland**—secretes triiodothyronine (T3) and thyroxine (T4) to stimulate metabolic rate, especially in growth and development, and secretes calcitonin to lower blood-calcium levels.

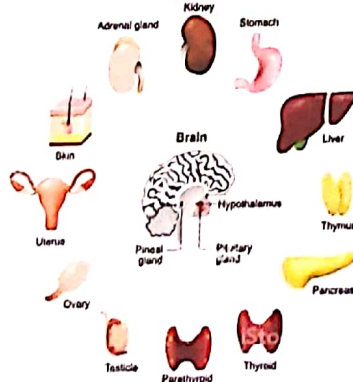
**Parathyroids**—secrete hormone PTH to increase blood-calcium levels; stimulate calcium reabsorption in kidneys.

**Adrenals**—secrete epinephrine and norepinephrine to help the body cope with stress, and raise blood pressure, heart rate, metabolic rate, blood sugar levels, etc. Aldosterone secreted by the adrenal cortex maintains sodium-potassium balance in kidneys and cortisol helps the body adapt to stress, mobilizes fat, and raises blood sugar level.

**Pancreas**—secretes insulin to control blood sugar levels, stimulates glycogen production, fat storage, and protein synthesis. Glucagon secretion raises blood sugar level and mobilizes fat.

**Ovaries and testes**—secrete estrogens, progesterone, or testosterone to stimulate growth and reproductive processes.

### ENDOCRINE SYSTEM



## Why do some earthquakes create tsunamis?

Most earthquakes occur along the edges of tectonic plates, known as plate boundaries. The Mexico earthquake occurred where the Cocos plate is colliding with the North American plate.

An area of about 200 by 50 km was pushed up by the earthquake, moving the water floor was uplifted by but this is enough to cubic kilometres of series of waves e a r t h q u a k e The tsunami waves overlying it. The sea only a few metres, displace several water and send a outwards from the epicentre. travel away from the



earthquake epicentre in all directions. The height of the tsunami waves on shore depends on several factors, such as the distance and direction from the earthquake epicentre, the depth and shape of the sea floor, and shape of the coast line.

About 75 percent of tsunamis occur at subduction zones, including some of the largest in recent history such as the 2004 Indian Ocean (Boxing Day) tsunami which claimed more than 250,000 lives.

The remainder are caused by underwater landslides, volcanic eruptions and (rarely) meteorite impacts.

Only the largest earthquakes (more than 7.5 magnitude) are capable of generating a tsunami that will travel more than 100 km. About two tsunamis occur every year which cause damage near their source, and about two per decade cause damages or deaths on distant shores (more than 1000 km from the source).



# WORLD TIMES FORCES ACADEMY

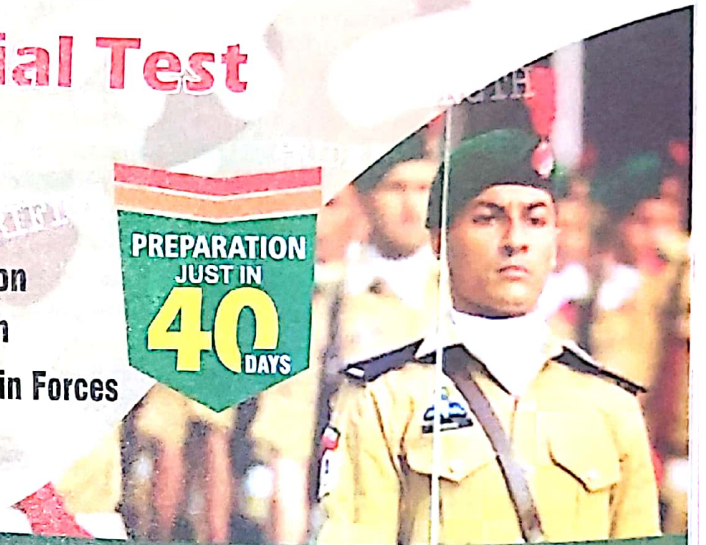
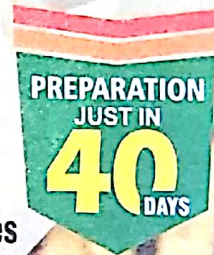
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# Physical Geography

## Study of the Earth's Features

The discipline of geography has a history that stretches over many centuries. Over this time period, the study of geography has evolved and developed into an important form of human scholarship. Examining the historical evolution of geography as a discipline provides some important insights concerning its character and methodology. These insights are also helpful in gaining a better understanding of the nature of physical geography which is the study of our planet and all of its components: its lands, waters, atmosphere, and interior. It focuses upon the character of, and processes shaping, the land-surface of the Earth and its envelope, emphasizes the spatial variations that occur and the temporal changes necessary to understand the contemporary environments of the Earth. Its purpose is to understand how the Earth's physical environment is the basis for, and is affected by, human activity.

Hira Batool

**T**he vast discipline of geography is divided into two major branches: 1) physical geography and 2) cultural or human geography. Physical geography encompasses the geographic tradition known as the Earth sciences tradition. Physical geographers look at the landscapes, surface processes, and climate of the earth—all of the activity found in the four spheres (the atmosphere, hydrosphere, biosphere, and lithosphere) of our planet. In contrast, cultural or human geography spends time studying why people locate where they do (including demographics) and how they adapt to and change the landscape in which they live. Someone studying cultural geography might also research how languages, religion, and other aspects of culture develop where people live; how those aspects are transmitted to others as people move; or how cultures change because of where they move.

### Definition

Physical geography consists of many diverse elements. These include: the study of the earth's interaction with the sun, seasons, the composition of the atmosphere, atmospheric

pressure and wind, storms and climatic disturbances, climate zones, microclimates, the hydrologic cycle, soils, rivers and streams, flora and fauna, weathering, erosion, natural hazards, deserts, glaciers and ice sheets, coastal terrain, ecosystems, geologic systems, and so much more.

### The Four Spheres

It's a little deceiving (even overly simplistic) to say that physical geography studies the Earth as our home and looks at the four spheres because each possible area of research encompasses so much.

#### 1. Atmosphere

The atmosphere itself has several layers to study, but the atmosphere as a topic under the lens of physical geography also includes research areas such as the ozone layer, the greenhouse effect, wind, jet streams and weather.

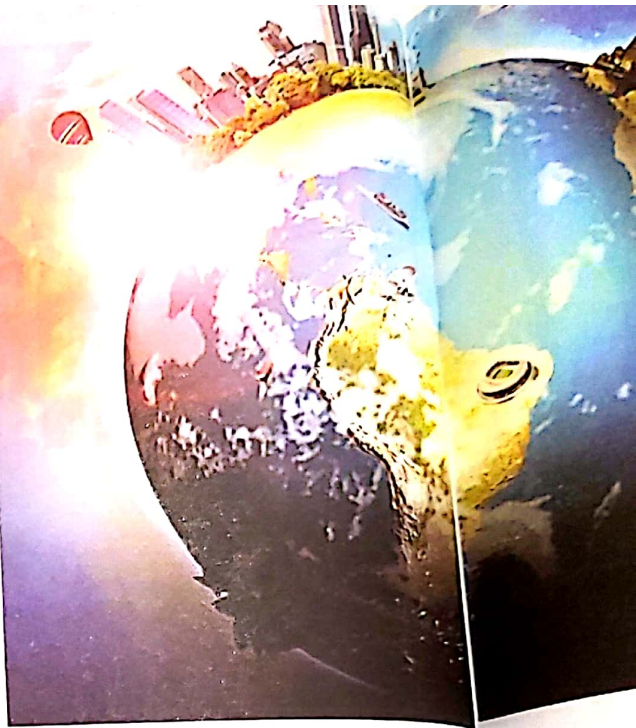
#### 2. Hydrosphere

The hydrosphere encompasses everything having to do with water, from the water cycle to acid rain, groundwater, runoff, currents, tides and oceans.

#### 3. Biosphere

The biosphere concerns living things on the planet and why they live where they do, with topics from ecosystems and biomes to food webs and the carbon and nitrogen cycles.

#### 4. Lithosphere



The study of the lithosphere includes geological processes, such as the formation of rocks, plate tectonics, earthquakes, volcanoes, soil, glaciers and erosion.

### Sub-branches

Since the Earth and its systems are so complex, there are many sub-branches and even sub-sub-branches of physical geography as a research area, depending on how granularly the categories are divided. They also have overlap between them or with other disciplines, such as geology.

Geographical researchers will never be at a loss of something to study, as they often need to understand multiple areas to inform their own targeted research.

#### a. Geomorphology

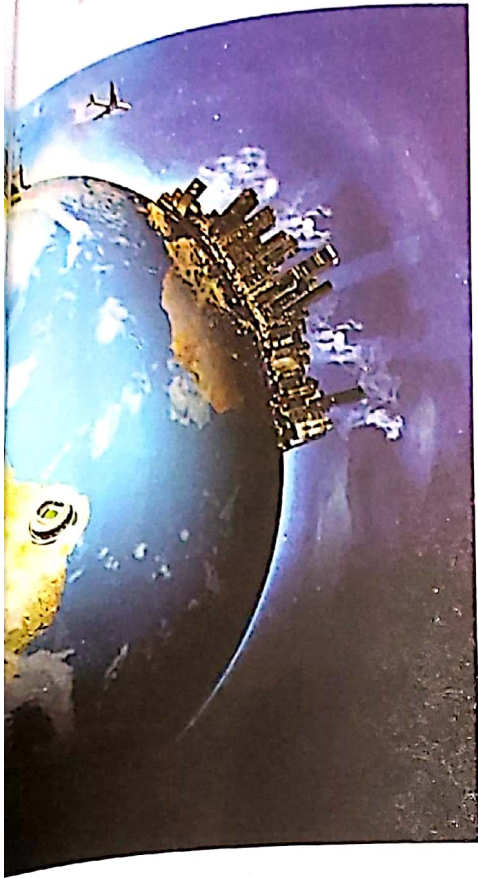
It is the study of Earth's landforms and its surface's processes—and how these processes change, and have changed Earth's surface—such as erosion, landslides, volcanic activity, earthquakes and floods.

#### b. Hydrology

It is the study of the water cycle,

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including water distribution across the planet in lakes, rivers, aquifers and groundwater; water quality; drought effects; and the probability of flooding in a region. Potamology is the study of rivers.

#### c. Glaciology

It is the study of glaciers and ice sheets, including their formation, cycles and effect on Earth's climate.

#### d. Biogeography

It is the study of the distribution of life forms across the planet, relating to their environments; this field of study is related to ecology, but it also looks into the past distribution of life forms as well, as found in the fossil record.

#### e. Meteorology

It is the study of Earth's weather, such as fronts, precipitation, wind, storms and the like, as well as forecasting short-term weather based on available data.

#### f. Climatology

It is the study of Earth's atmosphere and climate, how it has changed over time, and how humans have affected it.

#### g. Pedology

It is the study of soil, including types, formation and regional distribution over Earth.

#### h. Paleogeography

It is the study of historical geographies, such as the location of the continents over time, through looking at geological evidence, such as the fossil record.

#### i. Coastal geography

It is the study of the coasts, specifically concerning what happens where land and water meet.

#### j. Oceanography

It is the study of the world's oceans and seas, including aspects such as floor depths, tides, coral reefs, underwater eruptions and currents. Exploration and mapping is a part of oceanography, as is research into the effects of water pollution.

#### k. Quaternary science

It is the study of the previous 2.6 million years on Earth, such as the most recent ice age and Holocene period, including what it can tell us about the change in Earth's environment and climates.

#### l. Landscape ecology

It is the study of how ecosystems interact with and affect each other in an area, especially looking at the effects of the uneven distribution of landforms and species in these ecosystems (spatial heterogeneity).

#### m. Geomatics

It is the field that gathers and analyzes geographic data, including the gravitational force of Earth, the motion of the poles and Earth's crust, and ocean tides (geodesy). In geomatics, researchers use the Geographic Information System (GIS), which is a computerized system for working with map-based data.

#### n. Environmental geography

It is the study of the interactions between people and their environment and the resulting effects, both on the environment and on the people; this field bridges physical geography and human geography.

#### o. Astronomical geography or astronography

It is the study of how the sun and moon affect the Earth as well as our planet's relationship to other celestial bodies.

#### Why Physical Geography is Important?

Knowing about the physical geography of Earth is important for every serious student studying the planet because the natural processes of Earth affect the distribution of resources (from carbon dioxide in the air to freshwater on the surface to minerals deep underground) and the conditions of the human settlement. Anyone studying processes involving Earth and its processes is working within the confines of its physical geography. These natural processes have resulted in a plethora of varied effects on human populations throughout the millennia.

#### Future Trends

The following list describes some of the important future trends in physical geography research:

1. Continued development of applied physical geography for the analysis and correction of human-induced environmental problems. A student of applied physical geography uses theoretical information from the field of physical geography to manage and solve problems related to natural phenomena found in the real world.
2. Remote Sensing: Advances in technology have caused the development of many new instruments for the monitoring of the Earth's resources and environment from airborne and space platforms. The most familiar use of remote sensing technology is to monitor the Earth's weather for forecasting.
3. Geographic Information Systems: A geographic information system (GIS) merges information in a computer database with spatial coordinates on a digital map. Geographic information systems are becoming increasingly more important for the management of resources. ■



# What We Think, We Become.

"Children are more expert in happiness than adults. The adult who can carry the spirit of a child into middle and old age is a genius." (Page 78)

Reviewed by: Saba Sibghat

**T**his international bestseller written by the father of positive thinking, Dr Norman Vincent Peale, has sold over 15 million copies so far. 'The Power of Positive Thinking' teaches simple and feasible approach for living. The dynamic laws in this book are Dr Peale's personal search for life. He found these laws

out of solution for his problems. It is a cultivation of peace of mind, not as an escape from life but as a practical way to face life and to overcome fears and insecurities, that helps us accomplish worthwhile goals. We can have peace of mind, improved health and never-ending flow of energy due to positive thinking. In short, our life can be full of joy and happiness and success by following the laws the author has carved out.

This book consists of 7 chapters; I will go through these chapters giving a bird's eye view of them. Believe in yourself is the first lesson of the book. Believing in our abilities, believing that life is full of opportunities and joy. Self-belief leads to self-actualization and successful achievements. When your personality

**LIVE YOUR LIFE AND  
FORGET YOUR AGE.**

*Norman Vincent Peale*



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is inclined towards positivity, you start to draw success towards you.

Lesson number two is how to overcome inferiority complex. Inferiority complex is the main stumbling block to success. Deep and profound self-belief and tremendous faith in God give us self-confidence. Prayers can do wonders in developing self-confidence; the bigger your problems, the more should be your prayers.

Repetition of confident ideas is antidote to the thoughts of insecurity and inadequacy. Your mind helps you manifest what you repeat and visualize time and again. Human beings can alter their lives by altering their attitudes of mind because a man is what he thinks about all day long, 'as you think so shall you become'. One of the most powerful cures for self-doubt is the thought that the Almighty is actually with you and is helping you, and He will be your companion if you are envisioning His presence.

Unhappiness is self-created. Social conditions are responsible for more than a few of problems but the truth is that many of us actually are manufac-



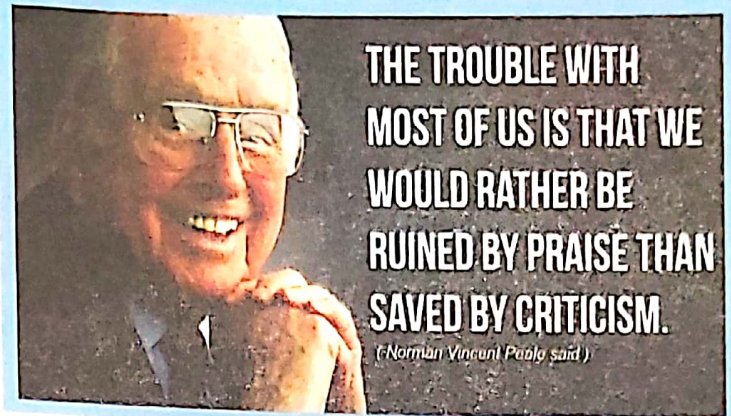
# BOOK REVIEW

turers of our own unhappiness simply by thinking negative. Unhappiness is further increased when we saturate our mind with resentment, hate, fear and worry. Happiness instead is a habit which is developed simply by practicing happy thinking.

Mr Peale suggests practice of clearing your mind from fear, hatred, insecurities and guilt. This practice gives peace and energy to our minds. Frequent mental catharsis of clearing the mind is very important for a peaceful night sleep for which people take sleeping pills. Make a mental list of present things which you consider blessings in your life, and pass them through your mind several times every day by consciously rejecting negative thoughts and substituting them with pleasant ones for a few minutes. Let that picture of happy experience, you expect to have during the day, pass across your mind. Having gratitude for what you already have and repeating this kind of grateful and positive phrases, and by meditating on the meaning of those phrases in the morning, will change the character of your day and will make you strong physically, mentally and emotionally.

Technique of repeating beautiful words loud have profound healing power too.

The most useful lesson we learn from this book is that the negative emotions like resentment, hatred, anger, jealousy, guilt and anxiety, are responsible for ailments like insomnia, diabetes, hypertension,



## Soulmate

I am very sentimental.  
He is pragmatic.  
Tea is my inspirational drink.  
For him tea is an addictive brown ink.  
I am a lover of five forms of art.  
He knows people of all sorts.  
But we are tied with an unseen thread.  
He catches my tear before it is shed.  
We have four eyes but one sight.  
We reinforce love with little fights

He is my anchor in every storm.  
Because of him life is full of calm.  
He actualizes me spiritually.  
He manifests me physically.  
He satiates me mentally.  
He inspires me emotionally.  
He completes me socially.

Soulmate is a spiritual better half.  
In my case he is my better half.  
Law of attraction played a strange game.  
It gave my spouse the same fictional name.  
Moon was the protagonist of my teenage poems.  
We are like Moon and its Moonlit night  
Love is immortal and it's our eternal right.

arthritis and ageing, as well as heart diseases. These mental conditions control our physical conditions.

Dr.George W .Crile, a famous American surgeon, said:

'We fear not only in our minds but in our hearts, brains and viscera, that whatever the cause of fear and worry, the effect can always be noted in the cells, tissues and organs of the body.'  
(Page157)

Hate blocks mental energies and people who feel energy-less are basically disorganized to one degree or the other by their deep, fundamental emotional and psychological conflict.

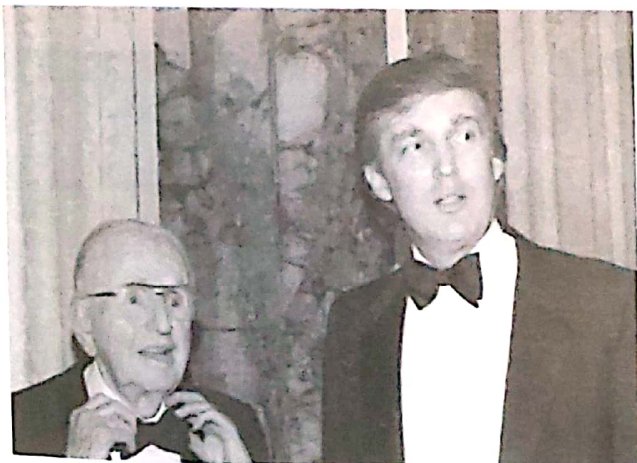
The secret of a wonderful and successful life is to chase away those old, dead and unhealthy thoughts, and to substitute them with new vital, dynamic and thoughts of positivity and possibility. This inflow of new thoughts will remake you and your life.

In the same way, positive thinking gives us a lot of mental energy which

we use physically. Positivity is responsible for good health and longevity of life, people who worry age rapidly and die soon while people who worry less live a longer and fuller life.

Another important lesson the book imparts is that when you expect the best, a magnetic force in your mind is created, which by the law of attraction, tends to bring the best to you. But if you expect the worst, you release from your mind the power of repulsion which tends to force the best from you. So, by visualizing the picture of the best, and nurturing it in our mind on a daily basis, gives us the desired positive results. ■

ashrafchand670@gmail.com





Apr - May '20



# WORLD IN FOCUS

## NATIONAL

M. Usman Butt



**Apr 16:** Gilgit-Baltistan minister for works Dr Mohammad Iqbal resigned.

**Apr 16:** Japan contributed \$1 million to Pakistan as assistance for Afghan refugees.

**Apr 16:** Zafar Masud, an international banker and entrepreneur, was appointed the President/CEO of the Bank of Punjab.

**Apr 16:** Leading executive Riyadh S.A.A. Edrees was appointed the chairperson of K-Electric Board of Directors.

**Apr 16:** The International Monetary Fund (IMF) decided to give a one-year debt relief to Pakistan.

**Apr 17:** Prominent businessman and a scion of one of Pakistan's oldest business families, Ali Suleman Habib, passed away. He was 63.

**Apr 17:** The Supreme Court ordered reconstitution of the Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (PMDC) with retired Justice Ejaz Afzal Khan to act as its president.

**Apr 17:** Pakistan and the IMF agreed to put on hold the existing \$6bn Extended Fund Facility (EFF) and revise it after the Covid-19 pandemic is over.

**Apr 17:** The IMF approved disbursement of \$1.386 billion for Pakistan under the Rapid Financing Instrument to address the economic impact of the Covid-19.

**Apr 17:** The federal cabinet, through amendments to the Income Tax Ordinance 2001, Sales Tax Laws and Finance Act, 1989, approved an ordinance to provide tax incentives to the construction industry.

**Apr 18:** Former chief justice of the Peshawar High Court (PHC) Justice Tariq Parvez passed away.

**Apr 20:** Prime Minister Imran Khan (PMIK) called on President Dr Arif Alvi at the Aiwan-e-Sadr and exchanged views on domestic and international matters. It was the first official visit by prime minister to the Presidency. DG ISI, Lieutenant General Faiz Hameed, was also present in the meeting.

**Apr 20:** Pakistan Olympic Association (POA) President Lt Gen (r) Syed Arif Hasan announced that Pakistan will take part in

07 disciplines of the 6th Asian Beach Games 2020 to be held at Sanya, China from November 28 to December 06, 2020.

**Apr 21:** Pakistan dropped three places to 145 on World Press Freedom Index 2020, an annual report issued by Reporters Without Borders.

**Apr 21:** One of the world's largest white flags was hoisted by mayor Sukkur, Barrister Arsalan Islam Sheikh, and the city

### Pakistani Peacekeepers Make the Nation Proud

Pakistani peacekeepers rescued more than 2,000 people stranded due to heavy floods in the Uvira region of South Kivu in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

Pakistani Blue Helmets, part of the UN

Mission in Congo (MONUSCO), immediately rushed to the affected areas for rescue and relief of Congolese populace. Rescue parties were immediately dispatched with paramedics and rescue equipment to different locations.

Troops also built a stone embankment to check the floodwater, which was strong enough to shift people and vehicles from the affected areas. The stranded people were served with food and provided necessary medical care.

Pakistani peacekeepers' rescue efforts have been widely acknowledged by locals as well the UN authorities.

Being one of the largest troops contributing country, Pakistan has more than 4,000 blue helmets serving under the UN for maintaining peace and stability.

The Pakistani peacekeepers, 157 in number, have laid their lives during various UN missions for preservation of global peace, while serving humanity with honour, courage and dignity.





administration.

**Apr 21:** To provide high-speed internet service in a region of the erstwhile Federally Administered Tribal Areas, the Universal Service Fund (USF) awarded a Rs92 million contract for developing broadband in Kurram district of KP.

**Apr 22:** PMIK in a telephonic conversation with US President Donald Trump thanked him for his country's support in the IMF and other fora, saying it would provide necessary fiscal space to Pakistan and help in mitigating the Covid-19 impact.

**Apr 22:** Former provincial minister KP for local government, PKMAP's Sardar Mustafa Khan Tareen, died of Covid-19.

**Apr 22:** Syed Amin ul Haque, the MNA from NA-251 Karachi, was sworn in as federal minister.

**Apr 23:** The Islamabad High Court (IHC) dismissed Vadiyya Khalil as chairperson of the Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) along with two other members.

**Apr 23:** Pakistan was ranked as 4th Generation Regulator (G4) by the International Telecommunication Union, becoming the only country in South Asia to have achieved this goalpost.

**Apr 23:** Jawad Rafique Malik, federal secretary Communications Division, was transferred and posted as Punjab chief secretary vice Maj Azam Suleman (R).

**Apr 23:** Pakistan's renowned Olympian wrestler Haji Mohammad Afzal died of coronavirus.

**About Muhammad Afzal**

Afzal was born on April 7, 1939. Due to his prominence as a wrestler, President Ayub Khan gave him the title of 'Sher-e-Pakistan' in 1960. He represented the country at the 1964 Tokyo Olympics where he was ruled out of the semi-final due to an injury. He also trained a number of prominent wrestlers. His famous pupils include Bashir Bholabhala, Tayyab Raza Awan, Tiger Wrestler and Usman Majeed Blue Wrestler.

**Apr 24:** On call of Pakistan Ulema Council, Darul Afta Pakistan and political and religious organisations of the country, 'Youm-e-Toba and Youm-e-Rehmat' was observed all over the country.

**Apr 24:** Making teaching of the Holy Quran with translation compulsory in all provincial universities, Punjab Governor Chaudhry Muhammad Sarwar constituted a seven-member committee of vice-chancellors to submit its recommendations on how to make it part of the syllabus.

**Apr 25:** Sana Mir, arguably Pakistan's most celebrated woman

cricketer, announced retirement from international cricket.

**Apr 25:** An international tribunal admitted all the counterclaims of the National Transmission and Despatch Company (NTDC) against an Iranian contractor in a two-year long case involving at least Rs700 million as compensation.

**Apr 27:** Leader of the House in the Senate Syed Shibli Faraz was appointed Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting in place of Dr Firdous Ashiq Awan.

**Apr 27:** Former Director-General ISPR Lt Gen (R) Asim Saleem Bajwa was appointed Special Assistant to PM on Information and Broadcasting.

**Apr 27:** The federal government announced a relief package of Rs125 billion for small industries and daily workers amid the Covid-19 lockdown.

**Apr 27:** Pakistan's controversial batsman Umar Akmal was handed a three-year ban from all forms of cricket after he was found guilty of failing to report fixing approach to the relevant authorities.

**Apr 27:** KP became the first province of the country to record more than 100 confirmed deaths of Covid-19 patients.

**Apr 28:** Yousaf Naseem Khokhar, a BS-22 officer of Pakistan Administrative Service, was appointed secretary commerce.

**Apr 28:** Pakistan's second four-star Admiral and second Chairman Joint Chief of Staff Committee from Navy Admiral Muhammad Sharif who had just completed 100, passed away.

**About Admiral Muhammad Sharif**

## Six Pillars of Socio-Economic Impact Response of COVID-19

On Apr 26, the UN agencies in collaboration with Pakistani ministries identified six pillars of action in its response plan to support country preparedness and response strategy including coordination, planning and monitoring of Socio-Economic Impact Response of Covid-19.

According to Covid-19 Socio-Economic Impact and Response Plan prepared by UN agencies in collaboration with different ministries/divisions of the government of Pakistan, the strategy is comprised of six identified pillars including:

**Pillar 1:** Coordination, Planning and Monitoring of Socio-economic Impact Response of Covid-19;

**Pillar 2:** Addressing Economic Vulnerabilities – Employment and Enterprises;

**Pillar 3:** Addressing Social Vulnerabilities – Education, Health, Water and Sanitation, Child Protection and Social Protection;

**Pillar 4:** Addressing Impact on Livelihoods, Food Security, Nutrition and Agricultural Supply Chain;

**Pillar 5:** Addressing Impact on Women, Girls and Transgender including Gender-based Violence; and

**Pillar 6:** Addressing Reproductive Healthcare and Newborn Health Needs.



## Which Countries Have Escaped The Coronavirus So Far?

Countries that have not reported COVID-19 cases (as of May 14, 2020)

- North Korea
- Turkmenistan
- Solomon Islands
- Vanuatu
- Samoa
- Kiribati
- Federated States of Micronesia
- Tonga
- Marshall Islands
- Palau
- Tuvalu
- Nauru





## How Vaccines Eradicated Common Diseases

Annual 20th century morbidity and 2019 morbidity of selected diseases in the U.S.

	20th Century Annual Morbidity	Reported Cases In 2019	Percentage Decrease
Measles	530,217	1,287	>99%
Pertussis	200,752	15,662	92%
Mumps	162,344	3,509	98%
Rubella	47,745	3	>99%
Smallpox	29,005	0	100%
Diphtheria	21,053	2	>99%
Polio (paralytic)	16,316	0	100%

He was born in 1920 in Gujrat and was uncle of Major Aziz Bhatti Shaheed, Major Shabbir Sharif Shaheed, both recipients of Nishan-e-Haider. He was perhaps the only officer left who participated in the World War II on behalf of the Great Britain before joining the Pakistan Navy in 1947. As Lieutenant, he decided to opt for Pakistan in 1947 and joined the newly established Pakistan Navy. He was among the first 20 naval officers who joined the Royal Pakistan Navy as a Lieutenant. The man of action led an eventful life and took part in all wars that Pakistan fought. He was at the centre of all the major decisions made in Pakistan in the events involving the war with India in 1971, the enforcement of martial law in the country in 1977, and the decision to covertly intervene against the erstwhile Soviet Union in Afghanistan.

He was Commander Eastern Naval Command in 1971 and became prisoner of war (POW) along with General AAK Niazi. Sharif resumed his active military service in the Navy after his repatriation from India. He became Chief of Naval Staff (CNS) after the sudden death of Vice-Admiral Hasan Ahmed and played an important role in building and strengthening the naval force in the wake of 1971 shattering events. After retiring from the military in 1980, the Admiral was appointed as chairman of Federal Public Service Commission while he continued his role as military adviser to President Ziaul Haq until 1988 when he retired from public service.

**Apr 28:** PMIK approved the 'Green Stimulus' package as part of the government's efforts to extend green cover in the county and to create job opportunities for the youth in the wake of Covid-19 crisis.

**Apr 29:** Renowned Pakistani businessman, philanthropist and educationist Syed Babar Ali was elected as a member of the American Academy of Art and Sciences, only the second Pakistani to earn this honour, after Dr Abdus Salam.

**Apr 29:** Ministry of Energy (Power Division) appointed Dr Khawaja Riffat Hassan as Managing Director NTDC.

**Apr 30:** President Dr Arif Alvi appointed Dr Muhammad Tabassum Afzal the new rector of COMSATS University Islamabad (CUI).

**Apr 30:** The Supreme Court allowed the federal government

to conduct the coming general elections in Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) under the Election Act 2017 and amend the related law to install a caretaker government for conducting polls.

**Apr 30:** The Punjab provincial cabinet approved allocation of two percent seats for minorities for admission in public sector higher educational institutions.

**Apr 30:** The United States Department of Transportation granted permission to Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) to conduct direct flights to the US.

**Apr 30:** The Human Rights Commission of Pakistan released its flagship annual report 'State of Human Rights in 2019'. According to the report, the year 2019 was the year of widespread social and economic marginalisation that left the weakest segment of society invisible and unheard.

**May 01:** Renowned singer Fida Hussain breathed his last.

**May 04:** Out of the total outstanding liabilities of US\$ 1.87 billion, Pakistan formally sought debt relief of US\$ 1.87 billion from 11 bilateral creditors among the G20 countries.

### Adieu, Uncle Jaidi!

Veteran writer, comedian, actor, and poet Athar Shah Khan passed away on May 10 at the age of 77.

Athar Shah Khan's legendary role as 'Jaidi' in Intizar Farmaiee on PTV made him a household name in the country. He continued to play the role of 'Jaidi' in many other subsequent television plays.

Khan was born in Rampur, in present-day Uttar Pradesh, and migrated to Pakistan with his family in 1947. They moved to Lahore at the time of Partition. He received his early education from Peshawar and Lahore.

The late actor had a graduation degree from Karachi's Urdu Science College and completed his Master's degree in Journalism from the Punjab University. In 1975, he moved to Karachi to write a PTV serial. Khan started his career as a writer some six decades back from Radio Pakistan and wrote around 700 plays during 20 years.

'Jedi Ke Sang' was his hit serial on the radio.

He performed in numerous plays and drama serials and entertained television audiences for several years as an artist, poet and writer. His other popular work includes *Hello Hello*, *Intezar Farmaiee*, *Lakhon Mein Teen*, *Ba Adab Ba Mulahiza Hoshiyar*, *Haye Haidi*, *Burger Family*, *Jaidi in Trouble* and *Problem House* among others.

Not only did he pen down dramas, but he also wrote stories and dialogues for a number of popular films, including *Baazi*, *Maan bani Dulhan*, *Goonj Uthi Shehnai* and *Manji Kithay Danhwan* (Punjabi).

In 2001, he was awarded the Pride of Performance by the Government of Pakistan. The Pakistan Television (PTV) also awarded him a gold medal on its silver jubilee celebration.



**May 04:** The federal government appointed Shaista Bano Gillani as acting chairperson of the Competition Commission of Pakistan.



**May 05:** Chief Minister Punjab Usman Buzdar inaugurated the prison management information system (PMIS).

**May 05:** Allama Iqbal Open University (AIQU) launched Next Generation Learning Management System (LMS) with Virtual class room facilitation grid to meet students' academic needs.

**May 05:** The first KP FM 91.1 radio station set up in Bajaur district started its test transmission.

**May 06:** The government appointed Engineer Zahid Abbas the member of the Indus River System Authority (Irsa) to represent KP in matters relating to water distribution for three years.

**May 06:** In occupied valley of Kashmir, chief commander of Hizbul Mujahideen Riyaz Naikoo was martyred along with his associate Aadil Ahmed by Indian troops in Pulwama district.

**May 07:** Renowned folk singer from Cholistan, Krishan Lal Bheel, passed away in District Rahim Yar Khan, at the age of 67.

**May 07:** The National Coordination Committee (NCC) extended closure of educational institutions in the country till July 15 and decided to cancel examinations to be conducted by the boards in the wake of coronavirus pandemic.

**May 08:** US Special Representative for Afghan Reconciliation Mr Zalmay Khalilzad called on COAS General Qamar Javed Bajwa . During the meeting, issues of mutual interest and overall regional security situation including Afghan reconciliation process were discussed.

**May 08:** AJK Prime Minister Raja Farooq Haider brought his previous principal secretary Ehsan Khalid Klani back in office.

**May 09:** YouTube announced to provide \$5 million to Pakistan to help the country tackle the coronavirus pandemic.

**May 10:** The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) was elected as the head of Saarc Anti-Corruption Forum.

**May 11:** PMIK directed immediate commencement of work on construction of Diamer Bhasha dam and said ensuring water security was the foremost priority of his government.

#### About the Dam

Diamer-Basha dam is a concreted-filled gravity dam on the River Indus between Kohistan district in KP and Diamer district in Gilgit-Baltistan.

The main purpose of the dam is water storage and production of 4,500MW cheap and affordable electricity for meeting the country's energy requirements. The 6.4 million acres feet (MAF) water storage capacity of the dam will reduce the current water shortage in the country of 12 MAF to 6.1 MAF. It will add 35 years to the life of Tarbela dam by reducing sedimentation. An area of 1.23 million acres of land will be brought under agriculture due to this dam. The construction of dam will create 16,500 jobs and consume a huge quantity of cement and steel, which will give boost to the local industry. An amount of Rs78.5 billion would be spent on the social development of the area around the dam as part of the project.

**May 11:** The Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony notified the reconstituted National Commission for Minorities and its terms of reference.

A businessman from Jamshoro, Chela Ram Kewlani, ex-president of Pakistan Hindu Council and a leader of Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf in Sindh, was notified as chairman of the new commission.

**May 11:** The government banned a nationalist and two separatist organisations of Sindh, bringing the total number of the proscribed outfits in the country to 76. Jeay Sindh Qaumi Mahaz-Aresar Group (JSQM-A), Sindhu Desh Revolution Army (SRA) and Sindhu Desh Liberation Army (SLA) were the latest addition to the list of banned organisations during the current year.

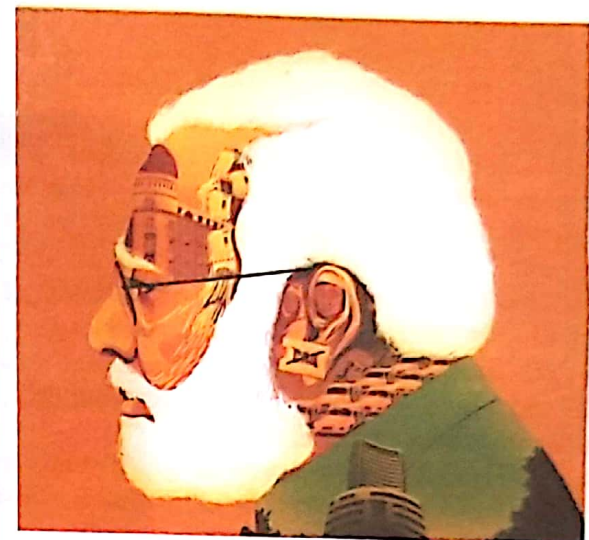
**May 11:** Chief of the Army Staff Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa called Chief of

#### 'Challenges Facing India's Democracy and Economy'

On May 15, the European Parliamentary Research Service issued its report 'Challenges Facing India's Democracy and Economy' whereby it exposed India's growing Hindu nationalist influence following second consecutive victory of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, terming it a serious challenge to the country's democracy, secularism and economy.

#### Summary of the report

India has a 70-year history of democracy, tolerance and



rule of law, and a successful record of managing its patchwork of cultures and religions. In recent months, however, following the second consecutive victory of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party in the May 2019 general elections, this situation was changing under the impact of an ever-increasing Hindu nationalist grip on society and politics.

After Jammu and Kashmir, India's only Muslim-majority state, lost its autonomy, the government adopted the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA), allowing foreigners from six religious communities living in three neighbouring countries to apply for Indian citizenship at a faster pace.

This new legislation has prompted protests and divisions across India, as, according to both internal and external observers, citizenship would be determined along religious criteria, which risks undermining the country's traditional secularism. The government's plan to launch a National Register of Citizens has further increased the Muslim community's fear of discrimination. Communal tensions flared into violence in late February 2020 in Delhi, claiming 53 lives.

At the same time, India's economy is experiencing a severe downturn: even before the coronavirus outbreak started to have an effect, its growth was slackening and so was job creation, while at the same time, unemployment is high, consumer confidence and spending are low, and trust in the banking sector is eroding as credit weakness and non-performing loans hinder its performance.

Contrary to expectations, the Union budget for financial year 2021 has not tackled existing structural weaknesses or generated a large fiscal stimulus as an answer to the slowdown.



Staff of Iran's Armed Forces Maj Gen Mohammad Bageri and sought Iran's cooperation in dealing with Baloch militants allegedly operating from its soil. The telephonic call was made against the backdrop of attack on a Frontier Corps patrol in the Buleda area of Kech district in which six troops, including Major Nadeem Bhatti, were martyred.

**May 12:** Punjab Minister for Sports, Youth Affairs and Tourism Rai Taimoor Khan Bhatti awarded a cheque of Rs100,000 to legendary wrestler Din Mohammad, who won gold at the 1954 Asian Games besides recommending the 94-year-old's name to the Punjab government for a house in the Naya Pakistan Housing Scheme.

**May 13:** The government awarded Rs442 billion worth of contract for construction of Diamer Basha dam to a joint-venture firm of Power China and Frontier Works Organization (FWO).

**May 13:** Former test cricketer Nadeem Khan was appointed Director - High Performance by the PCB.

**May 13:** The PCB handed rookies Naseem Shah and Iftikhar Ahmed lucrative central contracts but omitted the trio of Mohammad Amir, Wahab Riaz and Hasan Ali from the elite list.

**May 13:** The Supreme Court (SC) restrained the Peshawar High Court (PHC) from passing interim order pertaining to the release on bail of 290 militants convicted by military courts for their involvement in different terrorist activities in the country. **May 13:** PMIK appointed PTI senior leader, Shahbaz Gill as his Special Assistant on Political Communication.

**May 13:** The government approved a Rs50 billion package for the agriculture sector and about Rs17bn additional funds to defence forces to foot extra fuel bills.

**May 13:** Shehryar Afridi was elected chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on Kashmir.

**May 14:** The IHC Chief Justice Athar Minallah directed the Islamabad police to withdraw the personnel deployed for so-called VIP duties.

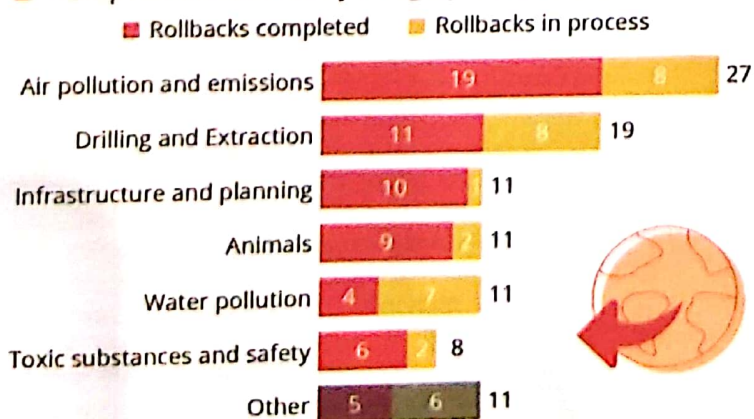
**May 15:** Pakistan got licence to make newly-developed medicine for treating the coronavirus patients.

The drug named Remdesivir will soon be manufactured locally under licence from Gilead Sciences Inc., an American research-based pharmaceutical company.

**May 15:** The State Bank of Pakistan announced to slash the policy rate by 100 basis points to 8%.

## Environmental Rollbacks Under the Trump Administration

Number of environmental policy rollbacks under the Trump Administration, by category (as of May 2020)



### Diamer-Bhasha Dam

Pakistan has suffered immensely during the last couple of decades due to water and energy shortages. The situation was particularly terrible between 2008 and 2015, but the previous government was able largely to bridge the gap. But because demand is always rising; this is a continuous process which must be met with new projects. A groundbreaking development has



taken place on this front with the Imran Khan-led government's announcement of commencing work on the Diamer-Bhasha dam. Pakistanis are deeply invested in the success of this project, not only because they have personally contributed billions for it, but also because the benefits are varied and immense, not to mention that the key concept behind this has been doing the rounds for years on end. The obvious facts have been outlined in the press release by the government.

The dam is also strategically important because of India's unwarranted belligerence under the Hindu-supremacist Modi government. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's statement saying that "blood and water cannot flow together" leaves no doubt about his government's nefarious designs. In such a scenario, it is all the more critical for Pakistan to increase its water capacity, meet energy demands and create economic momentum to keep the country ready and strong to fight off any challenge thrown its way.

Undertaking projects of such a massive scale requires a great deal of planning and meticulous execution. Until recently, the biggest hurdle in the way of Diamer-Bhasha dam was lack of sufficient funds. It would be good if the government could share how it has been able to successfully secure the necessary funds. This would put to rest fears regarding timely completion of all works within the expected budget. That being said, this is a wonderful development and the federal government ought to be congratulated for it. Prime Minister Imran Khan's directions on starting other large-scale projects should also be followed. This will serve to stimulate the economy and help the crises created by the Covid-19 pandemic.



## INTERNATIONAL

**Apr 16:** World Rugby created a relief fund of approximately \$100 million to assist unions around the world.

**Apr 16:** South Korean President Moon Jae-in's ruling party won an absolute majority in parliamentary elections.

**Apr 16:** India brought charges of culpable homicide, not amounting to murder, against the chief of country's Tableeghi Jamaat, Muhammad Saad Kandhalvi, for holding a gathering in March that led to a big jump in coronavirus cases.

**Apr 17:** Former Leeds United and England defender Norman 'Bites Yer Legs' Hunter died at 76.

**Apr 18:** Lesotho's embattled prime minister Thomas Thabane sent troops onto the streets to 'restore order'.

**Apr 18:** Abba Kyari, the powerful chief of staff to Nigerian leader Muhammadu Buhari, died of coronavirus.

**Apr 19:** Sekou Kourouma, secretary general of the government of Guinea, a former minister and a close ally of President Alpha Conde, died of coronavirus.

**Apr 20:** Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu reached a historic deal with one-time rival parliament speaker Benny Gantz to form an emergency unity government. Under the three-year agreement, Netanyahu will stay as Prime Minister for 18 months. Gantz will then take over as premier for another 18 months.

**Apr 20:** Peter Beard, the influential photographer renowned for his wildlife shots, was found dead. He was 82.

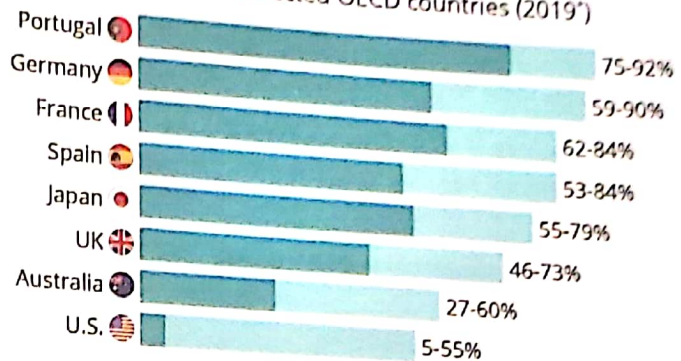
**Apr 20:** A freelance photojournalist from Indian-occupied Kashmir, Masrat Zehra, who is a regular contributor to various international publications, was booked under Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act for her 'anti-national' posts on Facebook and other social media.

**Apr 21:** Reporters Without Borders issued its annual World Press Freedom Index 2020. India dropped two places to be ranked 142nd out of 180 countries.

**Apr 21:** US oil prices crashed to unprecedented lows as

## The Countries With the Best Jobless Benefits

Share of previous wages retained after 6 months of unemployment in selected OECD countries (2019\*)



futures in New York ended in negative territory for the first time.

**Apr 22:** The 193 members of the UN General Assembly adopted by consensus a resolution led by Mexico that calls for "equitable, efficient and timely" access to any vaccine developed to fight the pandemic.

**Apr 22:** President Donald Trump partially blocked immigration to the United States "to protect American workers" from the economic shock of the coronavirus.

**Apr 22:** Iran put its first military satellite into orbit, making it an emerging 'world power'.

**Apr 25:** Global deaths linked to the coronavirus passed 200,000 mark.

**Apr 25:** Graeme Watson, an all-rounder who featured in five Tests and two ODIs for Australia, died at 75.

**Apr 25:** New York Governor Andrew Cuomo pointed to research showing that strains of the novel coronavirus entered his state from Europe, not China.

**Apr 25:** Saudi Arabia's Supreme Court issued a directive to end flogging as a form of punishment.

**Apr 26:** Saudi Arabia's King Salman ordered an end to the death penalty for crimes committed by minors.

**Apr 26:** Per Olov Enquist, one of Sweden's most acclaimed authors who wrote "The Visit of the Royal Physician," died aged 85.

**Apr 26:** Yemen's houthi separatists declared self-governance of the country's south.

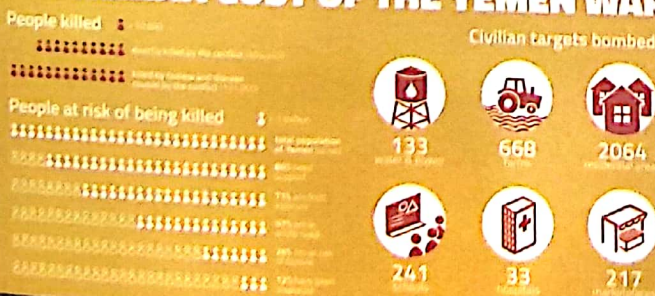
**Apr 27:** El Salvador President Nayib Bukele authorized the use of "lethal force" by police and military against gang members to crack down on heightened violence amid the coronavirus pandemic.

**Apr 27:** In its quarterly report, UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) said that violence surged in Afghanistan in the weeks after the United States and the Taliban signed a deal.

**Apr 27:** The United States posted rule changes that impose new restrictions on exports to China, including on civil aircraft components and items related to semiconductors.

**Apr 27:** The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (Sipri) released its annual report. According to the report, India had the world's third biggest military budget last year,

## THE HUMAN COST OF THE YEMEN WAR



## WHO PROFITS?





On May 12, the government constituted the 10th National Finance Commission (NFC) to announce a new award for sharing of federal divisible resources between the Centre and the provinces. This 11-member commission, however, will effectively comprise 10 members given the President authorised the Adviser to the Prime Minister on Finance and Revenue to chair meetings of the NFC in the absence of the federal finance minister. The commission will have four provincial finance ministers and four non-statutory members representing the provinces and the federal Finance Secretary as official expert. The non-statutory members, one from each province, include Tariq



Bajwa from Punjab, who resigned as governor of the State Bank of Pakistan when Dr Hafeez Shaikh was made Adviser to the PM on Finance and had previously served as federal Finance Secretary and chairman of the Federal Board of Revenue. He replaced Dr Salman Shah who represented Punjab in the NFC that expired on April 23 this year. Javed Jabbar, another heavyweight and former politician minister, was added to the new NFC as a non-statutory member from Balochistan in place of former provincial Finance Secretary Mahfooz Ali Khan in the previous NFC. Sindh and KP have continued with their past members Asad Sayeed and Musharraf Rasool Cyan, respectively.

behind the United States and China.

**Apr 28:** The US Commission on International Religious Freedom released its annual report whereby it reentered India into its list of 'Country of Particular Concern' because of the Modi government's policies and treatment towards the Muslim population.

**Apr 29:** International Cricket Council banned Indian businessman Deepak Agarwal, who owned a team in the 2018 T10 league, for two years on corruption charges.

**Apr 29:** Maj Sjowall, one half of a Swedish crime-writing couple credited with inventing "Nordic Noir," died aged 84.

**Apr 29:** France and Germany signed agreements to develop a next-generation tank to equip both of their armies from the mid-2030s.

**Apr 29:** The White House unfollowed Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on micro-blogging platform Twitter.

The White House currently follows just 13 accounts and has 22 million followers on Twitter. Modi was the only world leader who was being followed by the White House.

The White House also followed the official Twitter handles of the president of India, the Indian Prime Minister's Office and the Indian Embassy in Washington DC. However, all these accounts have now been unfollowed by the White House.

**Apr 29:** Acclaimed Indian actor Irrfan Khan, whose international movie career included hits such as 'Slumdog Millionaire', 'Life of Pi' and 'The Amazing Spider-Man', died aged 53.

**Apr 30:** Celebrated actor Rishi Kapoor, whose career spanned half a century, died aged 67.

**Apr 30:** China's National People's Congress (NPC) Standing Committee, a top legislative body, ratified the treaty on the transfer of sentenced persons between Pakistan and China.

**Apr 30:** Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin temporarily stepped down to recover from Covid-19.

**Apr 30:** Germany completely banned Lebanon's Iran-backed Hezbollah movement from carrying out activities on its soil.

**Apr 30:** New Zealand captain Kane Williamson won men's one-day international Player of the Year at the New Zealand Cricket (NZC) awards. Suzi Bates won the women's ODI Player of the Year award.

Experienced batsman Ross Taylor picked up the men's T20 Player of the Year award while Sophie Devine was the standout performer in women's T20Is, achieving a world record of six successive half-centuries in the format.

**Apr 30:** British World War Two veteran Captain Tom Moore, who has raised millions for the country's National Health Service (NHS), was made an honorary member of the England cricket team.

**May 01:** The UN World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) announced that Ozone depletion over the Arctic hit a 'record level' in March, the biggest since 2011, but the hole has now closed.

**May 01:** Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced an immediate ban on military-grade assault weapons.

**May 02:** US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) allowed

## In the past 3 months, Turkish drama series **Resurrection: Ertugrul** has reached more than **21 million viewers**

Resurrection: Ertugrul, a drama about Ertugrul Ghazi, the father of Ottoman Empire founder Osman I, and his struggles together with Kayi - the tribe he led - has been exported to at least 71 countries.

Although in Turkey the series ended more than a year ago, Ertugrul is still attracting viewers on YouTube and TV channels worldwide

In the last 3 months, 21.2 million people watched the show

Resurrection: Ertugrul has been exported to 71 countries

It has been translated into at least 25 languages including English, Urdu, and Arabic

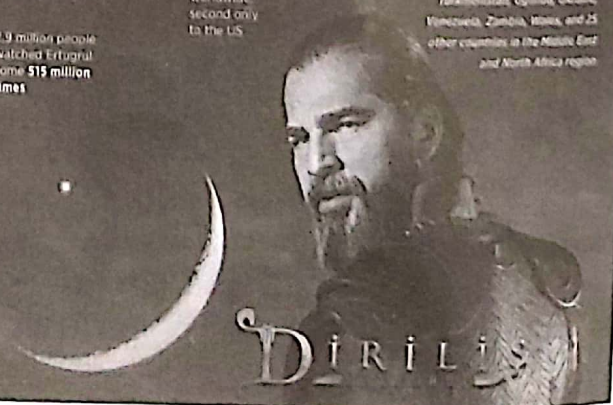
2.9 million people watched Ertugrul some 515 million times

In Pakistan, it was viewed over 101 million times over a 2-week period, and visited online by some 11 million people

Turkey leads TV series exports worldwide, second only to the US

### COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES ERTUGRUL WAS EXPORTED TO INCLUDE:

The US, Afghanistan, Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belarus, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Ecuador, England, Estonia, Ethiopia, Ghana, Greece, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, North Macedonia, Malawi, Mongolia, Moldova, Northern Ireland, Pakistan, Puerto Rico, Romania, Rwanda, Russia, Scotland, Sierra Leone, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, Venezuela, Zambia, Wales, and 25 other countries in the Middle East and North Africa region





emergency use of the first drug—remdesivir—that appears to help some Covid-19 patients recover faster.

**May 02:** Kazakhstan's president, Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, dismissed Dariga Nazarbayeva, the eldest daughter of his veteran predecessor Nursultan Nazarbayev, as senate speaker—the post had positioned her as second in line to the head of state.

**May 02:** A federal judge dismissed the United States women's football team's bid for equal pay.

**May 02:** The 2021 World Beach Games were moved to 2023.

**May 03:** Bill Beaumont was re-elected as World Rugby chairman by beating Argentine Agustin Pichot in the first round of voting.

**May 03:** Bangladesh relocated dozens of Rohingya refugees stranded at sea for weeks to a controversial flood-prone island in the Bay of Bengal.

**May 03:** The Algerian singer Idir, a leading cultural ambassador for of his native Kabylie and its Berber language, died aged 70.

**May 03:** Harry Potter author JK Rowling donated £1 million to help the homeless and those affected by domestic abuse during the coronavirus pandemic.

**May 04:** Celebrities, world leaders and philanthropists pledged some 7.4 billion euros (\$8.1bn) for research into coronavirus vaccines, treatments and testing during an EU-led videoconference that was snubbed by the United States.

**May 04:** The US Supreme Court resumed hearing cases after a pause occasioned by the coronavirus, but in a small revolution for the tradition-bound institution the justices participated from home, with live audio broadcast on radio and television.

**May 04:** Alice Wells, the acting top US diplomat for South Asia announced her retirement.

**May 04:** Fédération Internationale de Natation" (FINA) announced that the 2021 aquatics world championships in

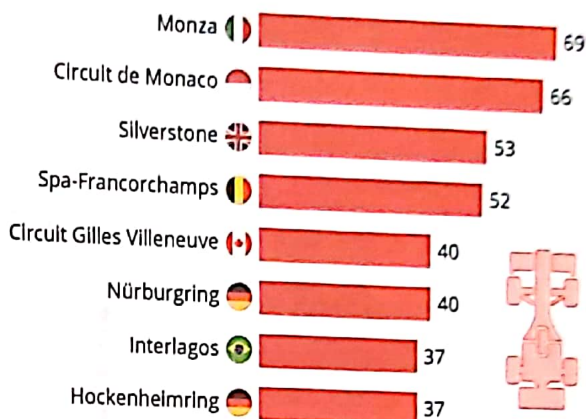
Fukuoka, Japan, will now be held from May 13–29, 2022.

#### About FINA

The "Fédération Internationale de Natation" (FINA) was founded in London July 19, 1908, during the Olympic Games in London (GBR). Eight national federations were responsible for the formation of FINA: Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, Hungary and Sweden.

## The Most-Raced F1 Circuits

Circuits which have hosted the most Formula One Grand Prix (1950-2019)



**May 05:** Associated Press photographers Dar Yasin, Mukhtar Khan and Channi Anand won the 2020 Pulitzer Prize in feature photography.

#### Other Winners

The New York Times picked up the most awards at the 2020 Pulitzer Prize.

The Times collected three awards, including for Brian M.

#### GK Tidbits

- The 21-year-old age limit on voting was first introduced in Pakistan in: **1970**
- Women in Pakistan got the right to vote in: **1947**
- The First Constituent Assembly of Pakistan was dissolved by: **Malik Ghulam Muhammad**
- The first female Governor in Pakistan was: **Ra'ana Liaquat Ali Khan**
- Pakistan's first female pilot was: **Shukriya Khanum**
- The birth name of the Quaid-i-Azam was: **Mahomedali Jinnahbhai**
- The names of the parents of Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah were: **Mithibai and Jinnahbhai Poonja**
- Quaid-i-Azam was born on December 25, 1876 at Wazir Mansion in: **Karachi**
- The school in Bombay where Quaid-i-Azam got his education for a short period was: **Gokal Das Tej Primary School**
- Quaid-i-Azam wore the famous Jinnah Cap for the first time during a session of All-India Muslim League in Lucknow in: **1937**
- Favourite sports of the Quaid-i-Azam were: **Billiards and cricket**

- Named after Quaid-i-Azam, Cinnah Caddesi is one of the longest streets of: **Ankara, Turkey**
- Established in 1847, the oldest school in Karachi is: **Karachi Grammar School**
- The only US president to invent and patent something is: **Abraham Lincoln**
- The scientist who discovered the neutron, a subatomic particle that has mass but no charge, in 1932 was: **James Chadwick**
- The seismologist who invented the scale used to measure the magnitude of earthquakes was: **Charles Richter**
- The inventor of both the carburettor and the motorcycle was: **Gottlieb Daimler**
- The two longest rivers in the world are: **The Nile and the Amazon**
- The Richter Scale is used to measure: **Earthquakes**
- The biggest railway station, by number of platforms, in the world is: **Grand Central Terminal (New York, USA)**
- The river that runs through the Grand Canyon is: **Colorado River**
- The largest country in Scandinavia is: **Sweden**

- The continent that is subjected to the world's largest ozone hole is: **Antarctica**
- International Court of Justice is located in: **The Hague, Netherlands**
- The city that served as the capital of West Germany from 1949 to 1990 was: **Bonn**
- The country known to its people as Suomen Tasavalta is: **Finland**
- The highest mountain in the Alps is: **Mont Blanc**
- The two colours on the flag of Greece are: **Blue and white**
- The first Legoland Park was opened in 1968 in: **Denmark**
- The bay between northern Spain and western France, known for its rough seas, is: **Bay of Biscay**
- Iceland got independence in 1944 from: **Denmark**
- The European country that restored its monarchy in 1975 is: **Spain**
- The cities of Cadiz and Cordoba are in: **Andalusia, Spain**
- The country that colonized Brazil was: **Portugal**
- Italy's longest river is: **Po**
- The river on which Prague, the capital and



Rosenthal's investigative report into New York City's taxi industry that revealed predatory loans that took advantage of vulnerable drivers. It also won the international reporting prize for a series of stories on Russian President Vladimir Putin's regime.

The paper's Nikole Hannah-Jones won best commentary for a personal essay that viewed America's origins through the lens of enslaved Africans.

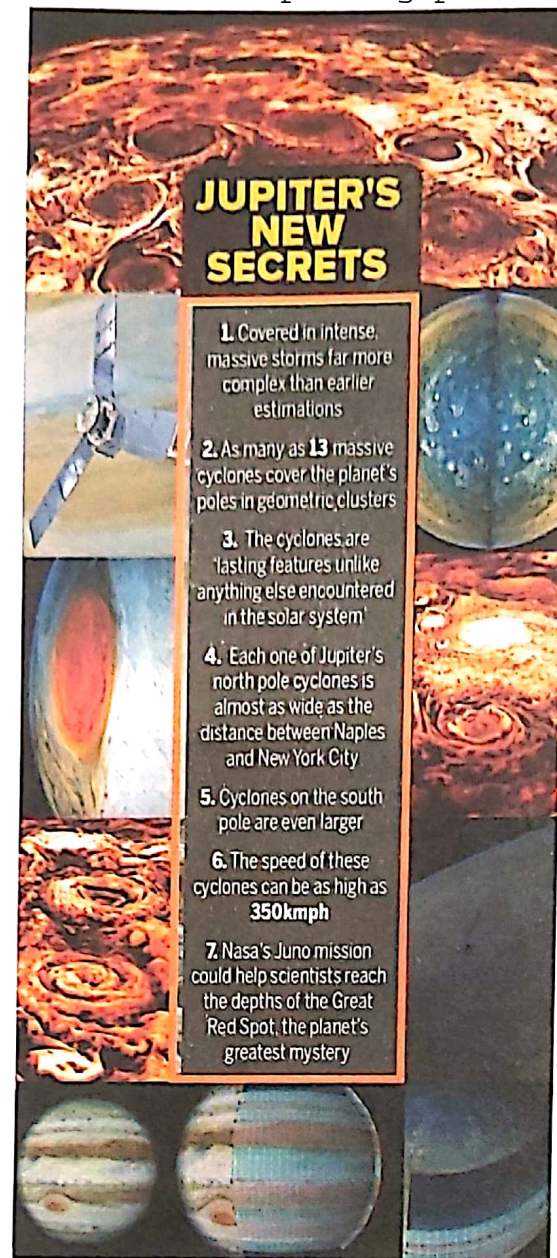
**May 05:** China successfully launched a new rocket and prototype spacecraft, in a major test of the country's ambitions to operate a permanent space station and send astronauts to the Moon.

**May 07:** President Donald Trump vetoed legislation passed by both houses of Congress to limit a president's ability to wage war against Iran.

**May 07:** Iraq's former spy chief Mustafa Kadhem took office as the country's prime minister.

**May 07:** Japan approved Gilead Sciences Inc.'s remdesivir as a treatment for Covid-19, making it the country's first officially authorised drug to tackle the coronavirus disease.

**May 08:** The United Nations launched an updated COVID-19



Global Humanitarian Response Plan that requires \$6.7 billion to help fragile countries cope with the pandemic.

**May 08:** A MiG-29 multirole fighter jet of the Indian Air Force crashed during a training mission near Punjab's Jalandhar area.

**May 08:** The United States announced to pull out four of its powerful Patriot missile systems from Saudi Arabia, after determining the threat from Iran that sparked an arms buildup in the region last year had waned.

**May 08:** Global leaders marked 75 years since the end of World War II in Europe.

**May 09:** Mulla Mohammad Yaqoob, the son of the Afghan Taliban's late founder Mulla Mohammad Omer, was appointed the Taliban military chief.

**May 10:** Afghanistan wicket-keeper/batsman Shafiqullah Shafaq was hit with a six-year ban after he accepted four charges of breaching the Anti-Corruption Code.

**May 10:** A new road, which passes through the territory disputed between Nepal and India has created territorial dispute between the two neighbours, with Kathmandu asking new Delhi to refrain from carrying out any activity 'inside its territory'.

## GK Tidbits

largest city of the Czech Republic, lies in: **Vltava**

37. The largest asteroid in our solar system is: **Ceres**

38. The number of planets in our solar system that have rings is: **Four**

39. The planet that lies between Saturn and Neptune is: **Uranus**

40. The only planet in our solar system that rotates clockwise is: **Venus**

41. Io, Europa, Ganymede and Callisto are all moons of: **Jupiter**

42. The planet that has a year which lasts around 84 Earth years is: **Uranus**

43. 'The Morning Star' is another name of: **Venus**

44. The planet that appears in the eastern sky before sunrise is: **Venus**

45. Phobos and Deimos are the moons of: **Mars**

46. 'The Blue Planet' is another name of: **Earth**

47. Olympus Mons is the highest mountain on: **Mars**

48. The unit of electrical power that is equal to one joule per second is: **The Watt**

49. The base unit of mass in the metric system is:

### The kilogramme

50. "Sound navigation and ranging," a method of underwater detection is commonly known as: **Sonar**

51. When dipped into acid, the litmus paper changes its colour to: **Pink**

52. The energy unit defined as 'to raise one kilogram of water by one degree Celsius' is: **Calorie**

53. A chronometer measures: **Time**

54. The type of sugar that the brain uses for energy is: **Glucose**

55. The distance between a lens and its focal point is called: **Focal length**

56. The process involved in heating an ore to obtain a metal is called: **Smelting**

57. 'Terra' is the Latin name for planet: **Earth**

58. Jovian is related to planet: **Jupiter**

59. The planet also called as Earth's twin is: **Venus**

60. The two planets that are similar in size, mass, density, composition and gravity are: **Earth & Venus**

61. The number of stars the Orion's Belt consists of is: **Three**

62. The North Star is also known as: **Pole**

### Star/Polaris

63. The full moon seen closest to the time of the Autumn Equinox is known as: **Harvest moon**

64. The first person to see the moons of Jupiter was: **Galileo Galilei**

65. Galileo Galilei first saw the moons of Jupiter in: **Dec. 1609 or Jan. 1610**

66. Selenology is the scientific study of: **The Moon**

67. The fastest rotating planet is: **Jupiter**

68. Africa's most populous nation is: **Nigeria**

69. Deborah Lyons is the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative for: **Afghanistan**

70. Sipri was founded in: **1966**

71. The tomb of Nadira Begum, the wife of Dara Shikoh, is in: **Lahore**

72. The leader of communist Yugoslavia, Josip Broz Tito, died on: **May 4, 1980**

73. Frank-Walter Steinmeier is the president of: **Germany**

74. Humanity's only true triumph over an infectious disease is the eradication of: **Smallpox**

75. Smallpox was officially declared eradicated on:



The road connects Dharchula in the Indian state of Uttarakhand to the Lipu Lekh pass near the Line of Actual Control (LAC) — India's border with China. India says the new road will facilitate the movement of pilgrims to Kailash-Mansarovar, claiming that it will significantly cut down the duration of the journey. The southern side of the Lipu Lekh pass, called the Kalapani territory, is a disputed region between India and Nepal.

**May 11:** Intel showed off its latest generation of desktop processors. The 10th Gen Intel Core S-series is much faster for playing games, streaming content and editing video, with the company claiming the flagship model to be the "world's fastest gaming processor."

**May 12:** Gunmen stormed a maternity hospital in the Afghan capital, killing at least 16 people— including newborns and nurses.

**May 12:** YouTube star Corey La Barrie died at 25 in a car crash.

**May 12:** Mexico's president, Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, ordered the armed forces to tackle security on the streets for another four years.

**May 13:** The United States added Cuba to a blacklist of countries that do not fully cooperate on counterterrorism. Cuba joined four US adversaries—Iran, Syria, North Korea and Venezuela—in failing to be certified for 2019 under a US counterterrorism law that affects defense exports.

**May 13:** US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo visited Israel, a day before its new Netanyahu-led government was to be sworn in.

**May 13:** Mauritius declared victory in its first battle with coronavirus, saying it had 'zero' active patients and had not documented a single new case in 17 days.

**May 14:** The World Health Organisation (WHO) warned that the coronavirus may never go away and populations will have to learn to live with it just as they have with HIV.

**May 14:** The global death toll from the Covid-19 disease crossed 300,000 mark.

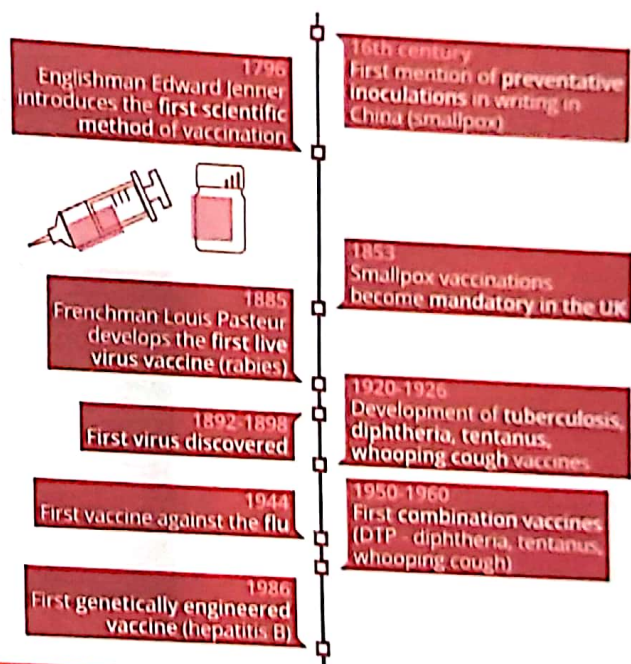
**May 15:** Facebook acquired the animated graphics startup GIPHY and would integrate the company in its Instagram visual social network.

Created in 2013, GIPHY is a platform and search engine for "stickers" and other products using the graphics interchange format or GIFs.

**May 15:** The ADB forecast that the global economy could suffer between \$5.8 trillion and \$8.8tr in losses, equivalent to 6.4 percent to 9.7pc of global GDP, as a result of the novel coronavirus pandemic.

## The History of Vaccines

Selection of key dates in the development of vaccines



## GK Tidbits

**May 8, 1980**

76. Vaccine for smallpox was discovered in 1796 by: **Edward Jenner**

77. The Lipu Lekh Pass is located on the border between India and the Tibet region of China, near their trijunction with: **Nepal**

78. The Line of Actual Control (LAC) separates Indian-Occupied territory from Chinese-controlled territory in: **Jammu and Kashmir**

79. The Makhali river forms the boundary between India and: **Nepal**

80. The treaty to determine Makhali river as border between Nepal and British India was signed in: **1816**

81. Remdesivir is a broad-spectrum antiviral medication developed by: **Gilead Sciences Inc.**

82. The UN Climate Change Conference – COP 23 was held in: **Bonn, Germany**

83. Diamer-Bhasha dam has a storage capacity of: **6.4 MAF**

84. The Baltic countries are located in the Northern Europe and in the eastern coast of: **Baltic Sea**

85. The Bundesliga is a football league in: **Germany**

86. The space around a star where temperature sustains water in liquid state is: **Goldilocks Zone**

87. International Day of Light is celebrated by UNESCO on: **May 16**

88. The number of countries in the Commonwealth of Nations is: **54**

89. The Shanghai Cooperation Organization in its present form was formed in: **2003**

90. The US Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is located in: **Atlanta, Georgia**

91. The number of member states of WHO is: **194**

92. The World Health Organization (WHO) was created in: **1948**

93. Ebola virus was first identified in 1976 in: **Congo**

94. The European Union was founded with the Maastricht Treaty in: **1992**

95. The EU was given its current structure and powers with the Lisbon Treaty of: **2007**

96. Lisbon Treaty is also called: **The Reform Treaty**

97. The number of official EU institutions is: **7**

98. Singapore joined the Federation of Malaysia in: **1963**

99. The founder and first prime minister of Singapore was: **Lee Kuan Yew**

100. The member states of Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) are: **14**





## MCQs / NATIONAL

1. On Apr 16, \_\_\_\_\_ contributed \$1 million to Pakistan as assistance for Afghan refugees.  
(a) Turkey (b) **Japan**  
(c) China (d) UNHCR
2. On Apr 17, the Supreme Court ordered reconstitution of the Pakistan Medical and Dental Council with \_\_\_\_\_ to act as its president.  
(a) Justice (R) Asif Saeed Khosa  
(b) Justice (R) Tassaduq Jilani  
(c) **Justice (R) Ejaz Afzal Khan**  
(d) Justice (R) Tariq Pervaiz
3. On Apr 17, the \_\_\_\_\_ approved disbursement of \$1.386 billion for Pakistan under the Rapid Financing Instrument to address the economic impact of the Covid-19.  
(a) **IMF** (b) World Bank  
(c) ADB (d) EU
4. On Apr 18, Justice Tariq Parvez, a former chief justice of the \_\_\_\_\_ High Court passed away.  
(a) **Peshawar** (b) Lahore  
(c) Balochistan (d) Islamabad
5. Lt Gen (r) Syed Arif Hasan is the current President of \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) Pakistan Hockey Federation  
(b) **Pakistan Olympic Association**  
(c) Pakistan Football Federation  
(d) Pakistan Rugby Association
6. The 6th Asian Beach Games 2020 will be held at Sanya, \_\_\_\_\_ from November 28 to December 06, 2020.  
(a) Nepal (b) Bhutan  
(c) Japan (d) **China**
7. As per Pakistan Social and Living Standards Measurement survey, at present \_\_\_\_\_ households in Pakistan are food secure.  
(a) **84 percent** (b) 86 percent  
(c) 88 percent (d) 90 percent
8. Pakistan has been ranked \_\_\_\_\_ on World Press Freedom Index 2020.  
(a) **145<sup>th</sup>** (b) 150<sup>th</sup>  
(c) 153<sup>rd</sup> (d) 155<sup>th</sup>
9. World Press Freedom Index is issued by \_\_\_\_\_-based Reporters Without Borders.  
(a) **Paris** (b) London  
(c) Bonn (d) Brussels
10. On Apr 21, the Universal Service Fund awarded a Rs92 million contract

for developing broadband in \_\_\_\_\_ district of KP.

- (a) Lower Dir (b) **Kurram**  
(c) Mohmand (d) Tor Ghar

11. On Apr 22, Syed Amin ul Haque of \_\_\_\_\_ was sworn in as federal minister.

- (a) PML-F (b) PTI  
(c) ANP (d) **MQM**

12. On Apr 23, the \_\_\_\_\_ High Court dismissed Vadiyya Khalil as chairperson of the Competition Commission of Pakistan along with two other members.

- (a) Lahore (b) **Islamabad**  
(c) Karachi (d) Peshawar

13. On Apr 23, Pakistan was ranked as 4th Generation Regulator by the International Telecommunication Union, becoming the \_\_\_\_\_ country in South Asia to have achieved this



goalpost.

- (a) **First** (b) Second  
(c) Third (d) Fourth

14. On Apr 23, \_\_\_\_\_, former federal secretary Communications Division, was transferred and posted as Punjab Chief Secretary.

- (a) **Jawad Rafique Malik**  
(b) Major (R) Azam Suleman  
(c) Shoaib Dastgir Lak  
(d) Mustafa Khan Tareen

15. Pakistan's renowned Olympian wrestler Haji Mohammad Afzal was given the title of 'Sher-e-Pakistan' by former President \_\_\_\_\_.

- (a) Iskander Mirza (b) **Ayub Khan**  
(c) Ziaul Haq (d) Pervez Musharraf

16. 'Youm-e-Toba and Youm-e-Rehmat' was observed all over the country on \_\_\_\_\_.

- (a) April 23 (b) **April 24**  
(c) April 28 (d) April 30

17. On Apr 25, \_\_\_\_\_, arguably Pakistan's most celebrated woman cricketer, announced her retirement from international cricket.  
(a) Bisma Maroof (b) **Sana Mir**  
(c) Nida Dar (d) Nain Abidi

18. On Apr 25, an international tribunal admitted all the counter-claims of the National Transmission and Despatch Company against a/an \_\_\_\_\_ contractor.

- (a) Chinese (b) French  
(c) Turkish (d) **Iranian**

19. The current Leader of the House in the Senate is \_\_\_\_\_.

- (a) Raza Rabbani (b) Sherry Rehman  
(c) **Shibli Faraz** (d) Raja Zafarul Haq

20. On Apr 27, Senator Syed Shibli Faraz was appointed Federal Minister for \_\_\_\_\_.

- (a) Planning, Development & Reforms  
(b) **Information and Broadcasting**  
(c) Information Technology  
(d) National Health Services

21. On Apr 27, cricketer \_\_\_\_\_ was handed a three-year ban from all forms of cricket after he was found guilty of failing to report fixing approach to the relevant authorities.

- (a) Sharjeel Khan (b) **Umar Akmal**  
(c) M. Irfan (d) Hassan Ali

22. On Apr 27, \_\_\_\_\_ became the first province of the country to record more than 100 confirmed deaths of Covid-19 patients.

- (a) Sindh (b) **KP**  
(c) Punjab (d) Balochistan

23. Pakistan's second four-star Admiral and second Chairman Joint Chief of Staff Committee (CJSC) from Navy, Admiral Muhammad Sharif, passed away on \_\_\_\_\_.

- (a) Apr 24 (b) Apr 26  
(c) Apr 27 (d) **Apr 28**

24. On Apr 29, the government enforced the Pakistan Essential Services (Maintenance) Act, \_\_\_\_\_, allowing PIA to repatriate Pakistanis stranded in different countries.

- (a) **1952** (b) 1956  
(c) 1960 (d) 1962

25. On Apr 29, Syed Babar Ali became only the second Pakistani, after \_\_\_\_\_, to be elected as a member of the American Academy of Art and



Sciences.  
(a) Altaz Ahsan  
(c) SM Zafar

(b) Dr Abdus Salam  
(d) Benazir Bhutto

26. On Apr 29, Ministry of Energy (Power Division) appointed Dr Khawaja Riffat Hassan as Managing Director -----  
(a) KElectric  
(c) NTDC

(b) Nepra  
(d) Wapda

27. On -----, the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan released its flagship annual report 'State of Human Rights in 2019'.  
(a) Apr 30  
(c) May 02

(b) May 01  
(d) May 03

28. On May 04, the federal government appointed ----- the acting chairperson of the Competition Commission of Pakistan.  
(a) Shaista Bano Gillani  
(b) Yousaf Naseem Khokhar  
(c) Dr M. Tabassum Afzal  
(d) Khawaja Riffat Hassan

29. On May 06, Engineer Zahid Abbas was appointed the member of the Indus River System Authority (Irsa) from -----  
(a) KP  
(c) Balochistan

(b) Punjab  
(d) Sindh

30. Krishan Lal Bheel was a -----  
(a) Cricketer  
(c) Classical singer

(b) Folk singer  
(d) Footballer

31. Raja Farooq Haider is the current ----- of Azad Jammu and Kashmir.  
(a) President  
(c) Prime Minister

(b) Chief Justice  
(d) Chief Secretary

32. On May 10, the National Accountability Bureau was elected as the head of ----- Anti-Corruption Forum.  
(a) Asian  
(c) UN

(b) Saarc  
(d) World

33. Diamer-Basha dam will be a concreted-filled gravity dam on the River -----  
(a) Sutlej  
(c) Chenab

(b) Indus  
(d) Jhelum

34. Diamer is a district in -----  
(a) AJK  
(c) Balochistan

(b) KP  
(d) Gilgit-Baltistan

35. On May 11, the National Commission for Minorities was reconstituted with ex-president of Pakistan Hindu Council, -----, as its

chairman.

(a) Chela Ram Kewlani  
(b) Dr Ramesh Kumar Vankwani  
(c) Jethanand Kohistani  
(d) Engr. Ashok Kumar

36. Rai Taimoor Khan Bhatti is Minister for Sports, Youth Affairs and Tourism of -----  
(a) Gilgit-Baltistan  
(c) Punjab

(b) AJK  
(d) Sindh

37. On May 13, the government awarded Rs442 billion worth of contract for construction of Diamer Basha dam to a joint-venture firm of Power China and -----  
(a) NLC  
(c) Habib Rafiq

(b) NESPAK  
(d) FWO

38. On May 13, the Supreme Court restrained the ----- High Court from passing interim order pertaining to the release on bail of 290 militants convicted by military courts.  
(a) Islamabad  
(c) Sindh

(b) Lahore  
(d) Peshawar

39. On May 13, ----- was elected chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on Kashmir.  
(a) Shehryar Afridi  
(b) Ali Muhammad Khan  
(c) Malika Bokhari  
(d) Sardar Ayaz Sadiq

40. Justice Athar Minallah is the current chief justice of the ----- High Court.  
(a) Peshawar  
(c) Sindh

(b) Lahore  
(d) Islamabad

## INTERNATIONAL

1. Moon Jae-in is the ----- of South Korea.  
(a) President  
(c) Prime Minister

(b) Foreign Minister  
(d) Trade Minister

2. Muhammad Saad Kandhalvi is the chief of Tableeghi Jamaat in -----  
(a) Pakistan  
(c) Bangladesh

(b) India  
(d) Maldives

3. Muhammadu Buhari is the president of -----  
(a) Yemen  
(c) Mauritius

(b) Nigeria  
(d) Kenya

4. On Apr 20, Sri Lanka's election commission set the country's Parliament elections for -----  
(a) June 20  
(b) June 24

(c) June 28

(d) June 30

5. On Apr 20, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu reached a historic deal with one-time rival parliament speaker ----- to form an emergency unity government.  
(a) Ehud Barak  
(c) Yair Lapid

(b) Benny Gantz  
(d) Reuven Rivlin

6. On World Press Freedom Index 2020, ----- has been ranked first for the fourth year running.  
(a) Sweden  
(c) Norway

(b) Lesotho  
(d) Denmark

7. On -----, US oil prices crashed to unprecedented lows as futures in New York ended in negative territory for the first time.  
(a) Apr 18  
(c) Apr 21

(b) Apr 20  
(d) Apr 24

8. President Donald Trump partially blocked immigration to the United States on -----  
(a) Apr 22  
(c) Apr 25

(b) Apr 24  
(d) Apr 26

9. On Apr 22, ----- put its first military satellite into orbit, making it an emerging 'world power'.  
(a) Qatar  
(c) Indonesia

(b) Iran  
(d) Nepal

10. On Apr 25, Graeme Watson, an all-rounder who featured in five Tests and two ODIs for -----, died at 75.  
(a) England  
(c) Australia

(b) New Zealand  
(d) South Africa

11. Andrew Cuomo is the governor of the US state of -----  
(a) Los Angeles  
(c) Ohio

(b) New York  
(d) New Jersey

12. On Apr 25, ----- Supreme Court issued a directive to end flogging as a form of punishment.  
(a) Iraq's  
(c) Saudi Arabia's

(b) Iran's  
(d) Indonesia's

13. On Apr 26, Per Olov Enquist, one of ----- most acclaimed authors who wrote "The Visit of the Royal Physician," died aged 85.  
(a) France's  
(c) Austria's

(b) Sweden's  
(d) Russia's

14. The incumbent United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights is -----  
(a) Sadako Ogata  
(c) Ruud Lubbers

(b) Michelle Bachelet  
(d) Tedros Adhanom





15. Ethiopia's Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus is the current Director-General of -----.

- (a) Unicef (b) WHO  
(c) Unesco (d) UNIDO

16. Filippo Grandi, the 11th United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, belongs to -----.

- (a) Italy (b) Finland  
(c) Sweden (d) Croatia

17. Established in 1964 as a permanent intergovernmental body, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development is headquartered in -----.

- (a) Geneva (b) London  
(c) Dublin (d) Atlanta

18. On Apr 27, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (Sipri) released its annual report, according to which the biggest military budget last year was spent by -----.

- (a) China (b) USA  
(c) India (d) North Korea

19. On Apr 28, the US Commission on International Religious Freedom released its annual report whereby it, for the very first time, recommended to impose targeted sanction on ----- officials.

- (a) Chinese (b) Indian  
(c) Pakistani (d) German

20. On Apr 29, France and ----- signed agreements to develop a next-generation tank to equip both of their armies from the mid-2030s.

- (a) Germany (b) China  
(c) USA (d) Sweden

21. The only world leader who was followed by the White House was -----.

- (a) Queen Elizabeth (b) Shinzo Abe  
(c) Narendra Modi (d) Xi Jinping

22. On -----, acclaimed Indian actor Irrfan Khan died aged 53.

- (a) Apr 26  
(c) Apr 29

- (b) Apr 27  
(d) Apr 30

23. Celebrated actor Rishi Kapoor, whose career spanned half a century, died on -----.

- (a) Apr 26 (b) Apr 28  
(c) Apr 29 (d) Apr 29

24. On Apr 30, China's National People's Congress Standing Committee, a top legislative body, ratified the treaty on the transfer of sentenced persons between ----- and China.

- (a) UAE (b) USA  
(c) Pakistan (d) EU

25. On Apr 30, ----- Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin temporarily stepped down to recover from coronavirus disease.

- (a) Russian (b) Uzbek  
(c) Ukrainian (d) Czech

26. On Apr 30, ----- completely banned Lebanon's Hezbollah movement from carrying out activities on its soil.

- (a) France (b) Germany  
(c) Jordan (d) Egypt

27. On May 01, ----- Prime Minister announced an immediate ban on military-grade assault weapons.

- (a) British (b) French  
(c) Canadian (d) German

28. On May 02, US Food and Drug Administration allowed emergency use of the first drug, ----- against Covid-19.

- (a) Remdesivir (b) Encephalitis  
(c) Cipla (d) Cossackie

29. On May 02, ----- president, Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, dismissed Dariga Nazarbayeva, the eldest daughter of his veteran predecessor Nursultan Nazarbayev.

- (a) Tajikistan's (b) Kyrgystan's  
(c) Kazakhstan's (d) Uzbekistan's

30. On May 03, former ----- captain, Sir Bill Beaumont, was re-elected as World Rugby chairman.

- (a) England (b) USA  
(c) Germany (d) Brazil

31. On May 03, Harry Potter author ----- donated £1 million to help the homeless and those affected by domestic abuse during the coronavirus pandemic.

- (a) JK Rowling (b) Helen Adam  
(c) Lin Anderson (d) Britt Allcroft

32. On May 04, -----, the acting top US diplomat for South Asia announced her retirement.

- (a) Stuart E. Jones (b) Zalmay Khalilzad  
(c) Alice Wells (d) Tom Vajda

33. On May 05, Associated Press photographers Dar Yasin, Mukhtar Khan and ----- won the 2020 Pulitzer Prize in feature photography.

- (a) Gowhar Geelani (b) Channi Anand  
(c) Naseer Ganai (d) Masrat Zehra

34. On May 05, ----- successfully launched a new rocket and prototype spacecraft.

- (a) Iran (b) China  
(c) Vietnam (d) Bangladesh

35. On May 07, ----- former spy chief Mustafa Kadhemi took office as the country's prime minister.

- (a) Jordan's (b) Syria's  
(c) Iraq's (d) Yemen's

36. On May 08, the United States announced to pull out four of its powerful Patriot missile systems from -----.

- (a) South Korea (b) Saudi Arabia  
(c) Jordan (d) Qatar

37. On May 09, the ----- vetoed a UN Security Council resolution for a ceasefire in various conflicts around the world to help troubled nations better fight the coronavirus pandemic.

- (a) Russia (b) France  
(c) United States (d) Britain

38. Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador is the president of -----.

- (a) Cuba (b) Canada  
(c) Mexico (d) Brazil

39. On May 13, the United States added -----, along with Iran, Syria, North Korea and Venezuela, to a blacklist of countries that do not fully cooperate on counterterrorism.

- (a) Iraq (b) Vietnam  
(c) China (d) Cuba

40. On May 15, ----- acquired the animated graphics start-up GIPHY and would integrate the company in its Instagram visual social network.

- (a) Facebook (b) Yahoo  
(c) Google (d) YouTube

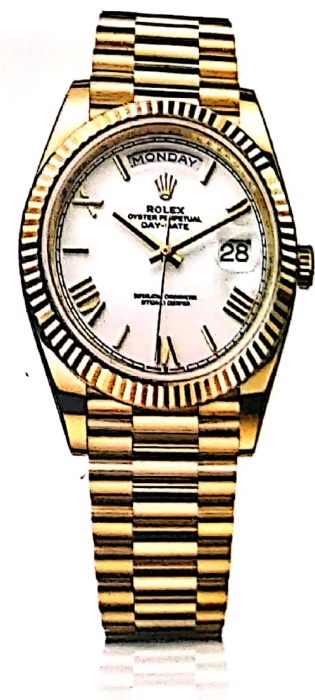




## THE SUPERLATIVE CHRONOMETER

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SADDAR: Tel 35855 081-83

CLIFTON: Tel 3582 0644

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BEVERLY CENTRE: Tel 282 4751, 282 4901

E-mail: kahf@kahfintl.com

WWW.KAHFINTL.COM

  
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